Daily Report

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CSCE Prague Session Discusses SFRY Situation

'Sharply' Condemns Helicopter Downing

LD0801221692 Prague Stanice Ceskoslovensky Radio Network in Czech 2130 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Excerpts] The fifth regular session of the Committee of High Commissioners of the countries of the CSCE opened in Prague this afternoon. [passage omitted]

The committee has sharply condemned the shooting down of the helicopter carrying a mission of EC observers in Yugoslavia and has called for the immediate assessment of the responsibility of specific persons. It has also emerged from the declaration that was adopted today on the situation in Yugoslavia that the high commissioners have taken note of the rules governing the recognition of independence of the republics declared by the EC in December last year. The participants in the meeting in Prague have given their support to the UN activities and have called for sending, as quickly as possible, the so-called blue helmets into the areas of conflict. They have also stressed that a change of both internal and external borders was unacceptable.

The commissioners tomorrow will discuss the agenda for the meeting of the Council of Ministers which will meet in Prague on 30 January.

Renewed EC Conference Supported

LD0901041392 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0309 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Prague, January 9 (TANJUG)—The committee of the high-ranking officials of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) adopted Wednesday [8 January] evening here a declaration on Yugoslavia, having sharp words to say about the downing of an EC monitor mission helicopter and demanding that responsibility for "that and other unacceptable acts" be urgently established.

Observing the Geneva and Sarajevo cease-fire agreements will create conditions for finding a political solution out [as received] although "the use of force against an unarmed helicopter" has jeopardized the results of the Cyrus Vance mission, the committee voiced its conviction.

The declaration estimates that an urgent sending of a UN peacekeeping force to Yugoslavia would mean a step forward if all the sides in the conflict would respect the cease-fire terms. The committee also welcomed Lord Carrington's decision to renew the conference on Yugoslavia.

In its final version, the declaration on Yugoslavia runs counter to stands set out, while finding Serbia and the Yugoslav People's Army to blame, by some CSCE members, above all by Austria, Hungary, Albania, and Bulgaria.

The session of the committee of the CSCE high-ranking officials will take three days.

CSFR To Join UN Peacekeeping Force

LD0801172192 Prague CSTK in English 1702 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Prague Jan 8 (CSTK)—Czechoslovakia is ready to join U.N. peace operations in Yugoslavia as part of the U.N. Security Council peacekeeping force if asked, Czechoslovak Defence Minister Lubos Dobrovsky told a news conference today.

Dobrovsky ruled out the possibility of any transfer across the Czechoslovak territory of military units of the former Soviet Union stationed in Germany. Transferred this way will be "only material", he said.

The 1992 military budget totalling 28,014 million crowns (over 900 million dollars) "does not reach the level we need," Dobrovsky said pointing out particularly the Army's outdated equipment.

He said the compulsory military service in Czechoslovakia should be shortened from eighteen to twelve months in the autumn of 1993.

On the threatening strike by Czechoslovak air traffic controllers, scheduled to begin January 13 and aimed at supporting their calls for restructuring Czechoslovak civil aviation and their social and wage demands, Dobrovsky said military air controllers cannot substitute for their civilian colleagues.

Storehouses Burned, Looted in Puke, Iballe

AU0601164692 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1430 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Rrok Lencaj report]

[Text] The small district of Puke is experiencing serious drama and distress. The year 1991 ended with the shocking and painful incident at Fushe Arrez. All citizens, furious at the death of 39 people, cursed the passage of last year and placed all their hopes in the year that has just begun. Hopes are turning into disillusion, however, for the people of this district with all their woes and troubles, which have resulted not only from harsh climatic conditions but by the single-party system with its savage dictatorship.

Peace and stability have been usurped by arson, death, theft, and looting. Only the first few days of this year passed at all peacefully. The first Sunday of the year, 5 January, witnessed an another act of considerable destruction. At about 1400 [1300 GMT], the storehouses of the retail enterprise in the town of Puke caught fire. The alarm was sounded at once and the forces of public order were informed. Citizens, the forces of public order, and officials of the Procurator's Office, the Investigator's Office, the District Executive Committee, and the retail enterprise's management came to the scene at once. Everyone attempted to use the means at their disposal to extinguish the fire in the central storehouse, which contained industrial goods, cloth, and shoes. People battled against the fire for two hours using only buckets of water because all other firefighting equipment was out of order. The Puke fire engine had been sent to Tirana for the use of the Ministry of Public Order one year ago and has still not been replaced.

Two hours after the fire broke out the Fushe Arrez and Shkoder fire engines arrived. With the help of these fire engines and their crews and the assistance of citizens, the fire was extinguished and kept from spreading to other storehouses. In the burned storehouse, more than 9,000 meters of woolen material and thousands of meters of other recently delivered imported fabrics were destroyed. The value of the destroyed goods is more than 2 million new leks. Initial investigations by the Investigator's Office have eliminated the possibility of the fire being caused by an electrical fault. Further investigations of this incident are continuing and persons will be detained.

At about the same time on the same day, crowds of people in the remote region of Iballe broke into and looted two warehouses and the store selling food and industrial goods. Within a few hours, all the foodstuffs and industrial goods set aside for winter reserves for all 16 villages of this remote area had been seized.

People's Assembly Passes Tax Legislation

AU0701155692 Tirana ATA in English 1028 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Tirana, January 7 (ATA)—After a some days interruption, on occasion of Christmas and the New Year, the People's Assembly resumed proceedings in the plenary sitting on January 6 afternoon. It continued with the examination of the Draft Law on Tax for Profit.

This draft law is an integral part of the fiscal and tax reform, a new contemporary practice in the fiscal field and an irreplaceable instrument of market economy.

The deputies forwarded different proposals and suggestions, which contributed to the further improvement of the draft law. After endorsing it article per article, the draft law was approved in general as well.

Then the assembly examined the Draft Law "On Taxes Imposed by State on a Certain Group of Monopoly Goods in the Republic of Albania." This draft law is applied only for such goods as cigarettes, alcoholic drinks and oil byproducts, that is, as it is done in all the European countries.

The draft law was endorsed in principle, article per article and in general.

The assembly continues its proceedings today before noon.

Alia Issues Law on Sales Tax

AU0701150192 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1430 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] President Ramiz Alia was informed today about Law No. 7,543 approved by the People's Assembly on 24 December 1991 on the basis of Article 28 of the Law on the Main Constitutional Provisions and issued the Law on the Taxation of Retail Sales.

Democratic Party Protests Greek Minority View

AU0801122492 Tirana ATA in English 0910 GMT 8 Jan 92

["Statement of the Albanian Democratic Party"—ATA headline]

[Text] Tirana, January 8 (ATA)—Under the above title the newspaper "RILINDJA DEMOKRATIKE" carries a statement of the Democratic Party which says :

The Democratic Party expresses its powerful protest against the attitude of the chairman of "Omonia" for Gjirokaster, Theodhori Bezhani in his interview with the Greek newspaper "CRITIANIKI" dated December 19, according to whom "Omonia" in the future will work to detach from Albania the zones inhabited by the Greek minority and for their unification with Greece.

Such a statement which needs no comment damages the traditional atmosphere of understanding between the

Albanians and the people of minority in the south and arouses unnecessary tensions between Albania and Greece.

Mr. Bezhani may be right when he demands freedoms and rights for Greek minority according to CSCE acts. But he forgets that one of the sacred principles of Helsinki for whose application, apart from Albania and Greece, are engaged the whole Europe and North America is the inviolability of existing borders. Viewed from this angle it is absurd the comparison between the territories of the minority and Kosovo, because as known Yugoslavia is a multinational state, where naturally every nation should have the right for self-determination. Besides we also observe that the attitude of the chairman of "Omonia" for Gjirokaster is against the program of this organization and propagates north Epirote chauvinism. In such a case it is the duty of legal state to interfere and apply the law. The Democratic Party calls on the Greek minority, the members of "Omonia", instances and its deputies not to reconcile with and condemn the statement of Mr. Bezhani. We would desire such a thing also from the orthodox church where during religious ceremony there have occurred many compromising acts.

Food, Fuel Shortages, Drug Trafficking Viewed

92BA0321A Rome L'ESPRESSO in Italian
22 Dec 91 pp 80-84

[Article by Gianni Perelli and Sandra Cecchi: "Christ Stopped at Tirana"]

[Text] Tirana—Dawn brings another desperate day to the Albanian Port of Durazzo. The Italian Army's garbage truck is leaving the camp established in the run-down barns of a seaside colony. Just past the gate, the driver sees the road blocked by dozens of youths. They stop the truck. The assault on the garbage begins. Barehanded, those starving Albanians overturn the load, search among the garbage from the officers' messes, the best restaurants in all the Balkans, and search for something to eat. They leave after a half hour of looting, carrying with them the rotting remains of lunches and dinners. The Italian soldiers look on in surprise, without the energy to intervene. Now in the Durazzo camp where the Operation Pellicano command has its headquarters, even the garbage trucks are guarded night and day to prevent new attacks. From the remote, the most depressed, provinces of the north news arrives daily of ambushes of Italian convoys that distribute food. And even more dramatic news, dozens of people dead, crushed in the struggle for a piece of bread. Perhaps the point of no return toward total disintegration of a nation that is fearful and lacking in supplies, is that truly today they no longer even have eyes to cry with.

In the officers' mess of the Italian camp, an Albanian Government minister visiting our contingent screwed up his courage at the end of dinner and asked the commander to put aside for him the plastic glasses and bottles remaining on the table. The glass factories throughout Albania have been shut down for months. They lack not only glasses and bottles but even window glass. When a window is broken it is impossible to replace it. The Italians sent tons of it, but then they discovered that putty was lacking. Therefore it was a useless effort. So the elementary school children study their lessons in cold rooms with shattered windows. They, including the teachers, are all wrapped up in overcoats, scarves and gloves. Doctors and nurses are dressed the same way. At the Tirana Polyclinic, operations have been done for months without anesthesia. Those who go to hospitals in Durazzo and Valona are more fortunate. Those hospitals' staffs are aided by 12 Italian doctors and six Red Cross nurses who have taken Western medicines with them. Hundreds of persons appear every day: children suffering from malnutrition; men and women with "old" infections such as scabies and pedunculosis, which an Italian doctor said he "had seen only in books."

Illness, hunger and cold. This year for the first time in decades, there is a shortage even of diesel oil. Houses, offices, hospitals and even hotels lack heat and hot water. Wood has remained the only source of heat. Thus all the trees have been cut down along the road that leads from Tirana to Durazzo, while in the parks the benches have been reduced to cement skeletons.

Albania is like the Soviet Union. Shops are always desolately empty. There is a shortage of everything: milk, butter, eggs, medicines. Lines are kilometers long for a loaf of bread. People remain standing in a campout from 2200 to dawn. Something can be purchased only on the black market and in private shops. There is one in particular that is the dream of all Albanians. It is in the center of Tirana and is run by people from Puglia. They have everything: spaghetti, peeled tomatoes, soap, fruit juices, toilet paper. These items disappeared years ago from the state stores. But the very great majority of Albanians can only look through the shop windows and stare at those products as though they are seeing unreachable mirages. Prices are prohibitive. A kilogram of spaghetti costs 120 leks, a tenth of the average wage.

Hope that things will change depends on Italian aid, on the contingent of Operation Pellicano that has been in Albania since 18 September. That contingent consists of 750 soldiers, all draftees, who are assigned to the camps of Durazzo and Valona under the command of General Antonio Quintana. The "angels" are distributing 120 tons of foodstuffs that the Italian Government sent to halt the mass exodus of refugees to our country. Every day columns of vehicles reach the 26 provincial capitals

where foodstuffs are stockpiled to be distributed to the people. The soldiers travel almost inaccessible roads that are little more than mule paths built by their grandfathers in the 1930's. Often they are assaulted by rock-throwing children. But it is not a hostile gesture. The Albanian children have no toys and rocks are their only playthings. The more inaccessible areas are reached by helicopter. General Quintano says that in the northern village of Topoje, at an altitude of more hid in their hovels. And a few courageous ones, informed by our soldiers that help was arriving, resorted to a disarming question to ingratiate themselves: "And how is the Duce?"

The effort that our contingent is making in Albania is enormous. "But it is only a drop in the sea," admits the commander of the Pellicano Operation. A drop in a sea of misery worsened by illegal trafficking that soon developed around the Italian "manna." Albanians have become very expert in an art that is as old as the world: survival. And survival means mainly carrying out night raids on warehouses where rice, flour, and sugar are stored. Or, for the customs officers who have the luck to unload the sacks that arrive daily in the ports of Durazzo and Valona, it means lining their trousers and sweaters with rice, sugar, and flour. "They leave the warehouses like little Michelin men," says a smiling soldier. Then the stolen products find their way to the black market and are sold at prices 10 times higher than those set in state stores. General Quintana himself admits that, "They are physiological phenomena that are inevitable and that we cannot control."

Less physiological instead is the scandal being talked about these days throughout Albania: the sale to foreign countries of some Italian aid. Raising the matter was ADRIATIKU, an aggressive Durazzo weekly. Newsman Robert Cezari interviewed Bestnik Sinanin, former chief of the Durazzo treasury police. And Sinanin disclosed that 1,000 tons of oil out of the 6,000 tons sent by Italy wound up in Greece. It was sent mainly to the city of Ioannina. The Albanians reportedly sold it cheaply to get hard currency. Under these conditions, in Greece, which itself produces oil, some merchants profited by playing the game. Following the expose' by the weekly ADRIATIKU, Socialist (former Communist) deputy Shane Korbeci was stripped of his parliamentary immunity. He had been the supervisor of Italian aid distribution.

According to the weekly, he was said to have used an elementary stratagem to make oil disappear. He warehoused oil for Durazzo at Valona, oil for Valona at Tirana, and so forth. Thus no one knew exactly where the oil was. Except that it later showed up in Greek shops in the same original cans that were not in circulation in EEC countries. The game continued until the ADRIATIKU expose'. Immediately afterward Korbeci was replaced by Ferez Mataj, former Durazzo mayor, victim of political persecution, "a person who was above suspicion," as General Quintana described him.

Trafficking to foreign countries did not stop there. An investigation by newsman Cezari reported that a Valona deputy disclosed that trailer trucks loaded with sugar were believed to have been sent to Bulgaria, mainly to the city of Plodi. Meanwhile people in Tirana, anguished by the apocalyptic news (flour for bread can last only a few days) that the former premier Ylli Bufi is spreading throughout the country, ask themselves what is happening to Italian aid. There is no trace of the bounty that our government had promised. In these cold winter days it is possible to find only a little bit of meat; the only food that the Italian Army distributes directly. Can this be only one case?

[Box, p 81]

There is Only One Friend: Saddam. Tirana exports only weapons: to Baghdad.

No longer knowing where to turn, isolated as his country is by an embargo, Saddam Husayn resupplies himself with arms. He has found a country—Albania—willing to supply him with Kalashnikovs. And this despite the fact that the Albanian Republic condemned the invasion of Kuwait and voted for the embargo. The news was published by the Durazzo weekly ADRIATIKU and no one has denied it.

In any case, today in the "Nation of the Eagle" only military factories still function at full capacity. Two are the most important. One is at Gramsc, in the center of the country, the other is on the outskirts of Tirana. There they assemble machine guns; the parts arrive from Bulgaria and from the former Soviet Union. The Kalasnikovs are sold at somewhat high prices: $220 to $230 each.

The arms produced in Albania leave from the Valona submarine base and from the military Porto Romano, north of Durazzo. And they arrive in Baghdad through the classical system of triangulation. In addition to Iraq, the best clients in recent months have been all the Yugoslav republics, but the arms wound up mainly in Kosovo and in the hands of the Serbian militia.

[Box, p 82]

You Are the Drunkard! This Is the Level of Political Debate in Tirana.

The Albanian Government that emerged last March from the first free elections in 40 years only lasted eight months. It was formed by a heterogeneous coalition of former Communists, New Democrats and one Republican. In collapsing it left the political scene of the country in a quagmire from which many believe that it can escape only through new earlier elections. "Pure folly," commented a high official of the Interior Ministry. "We don't even have the paper to print election certificates and ballots. Imagine whether we can bear the cost of elections." He did not add, because that is not his responsibility, that the call to the polls would solve little.

In fact, the crisis is entirely within the Democratic Party, the one that in March won in the cities but lost in the rural areas. This is why it was forced to ally itself with the hated Communists who continued to act like bosses in the government. But considering Albania's harsh conditions, the president of the Democratic Party, Salim Berisha, thought he would ride the tiger, destroying everything, and hoping to win a landslide election that would throw the Communists out. The order given to his ministers to leave the government, however, created much bad feeling. A discussion resulted that touched pinacles of oratory such as: "Shut up, you drunkard." "Listen to the whoremaster talk." Also used was the threat to publish some dossiers on past and present misdeeds.

The result was that a part of the Democratic Party, the one that opposed President Berisha, founded a movement called New Democracy. But the Albanians could not follow the entire scenario in the newspapers. The story is complicated and too much paper would be needed to write it, the famous paper that does not even exist for election certificates and ballots. As everything else in Albania, paper is becoming scarcer: even the glorious ZERI I POPULLIT, former organ of the Communist Party, is issued sporadically, when possible, while ADRIATIKU, the major weekly, must content itself with a press run of 5,000 copies while it could sell 20,000.

After some days of reflection, however, President Ramiz Alia resolved the crisis by entrusting to the 40-year-old engineer, Vilson Ahmeti, the responsibility of prime minister, replacing Ylli Bufi. Ahmeti is not tied to any political party and never was a member of the communist apparatus. But in times of absolute poverty, perhaps Alia's choice has an explanation that is more technical than political: Ahmeti was the minister of supply in the preceding government.

—by Sandra Cecchi

[Box, p 84]

The Durazzo Criminal Element. The Camorra and the Mafia Compete in Drug Trafficking

They wander around the lobby of Durazzo's Adriatik Hotel wearing expensive clothing, Western shoes, and lighting their Marlboros with a Zippo that certainly was not bought in Tirana or nearby. But they are accompanied by attractive, perfumed, elegant girls with hair styled in the latest fashion. To say the least, a fauna that is not usual in Albania. They are the new rich, those who make loads of money despite the nation's total collapse. Obviously not legally.

They invented the strangest activities in order to succeed. For example, they procure false visas for foreign countries. A visa for Greece costs $3,000. The price is much higher to go to Italy: that price is at least $5,000. But the Albanian neocapitalists are enriching themselves mainly through cigarette smuggling, a traffic in which several ministers of the former government are said to be involved. A Durazzo customs officer says that ships from Yugoslavia arrive daily carrying cigarettes bound for Italy. A lack of curiosity concerning cigarettes and documents could pay up to $6,000 per day.

Drugs, mainly hashish, come from Greece and Yugoslavia along with cigarettes. But some, mainly opium, are produced in Albania in the hothouses scattered throughout the mountains.

Drugs and contraband are the cultural terrain for crime. The Gang of the Dog at Durazzo terrorizes the city. Members of the gang are armed and travel in high-powered cars, killing and stealing. The police do not intervene and the people lock themselves in their houses. One morning a man was found hung in front of the Adriatik Hotel. It seems he had angered the Albanian smugglers who are involved in a war to control cigarette traffic. His body was made to disappear quickly.

Vittorio Alberani, an Italian who has been working in Durazzo for the past six months said, "You would not think so, but billions circulate in Albania. Just think that with all the misery that exists the Albanian Government is negotiating to buy a shipment of gold ingots from Switzerland." The Italian businessman painted a very dark picture. "Albania is becoming a second Colombia. The Mafia and the Camorra have landed and they are competing for control of the Durazzo coast. And this should not surprise anyone: In a nation out of control, reduced to extreme poverty, crime flourishes easily because it is the only activity that can produce wealth."

—by s.c.

Turkish Delegation Meets With Dimitrov

AU0801151592 Sofia BTA in English 1447 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Sofia, January 8 (BTA)—Mr. Bilgin Unan, deputy undersecretary of the Turkish Foreign Ministry, who is heading a Turkish delegation here, delivered a letter by Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel to Bulgarian Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov.

In his letter the Turkish prime minister expresses his satisfaction over the fact that Bulgaria and Turkey have overcome the difficulties which caused tension in bilateral relations in the near past and have given an impetus to the stable and accelerated promotion of these relations after the October 1991 elections.

I am convinced that it is in the interest of both Bulgaria and Turkey to cooperate ever more closely not only in promoting bilateral relations in the spirit of friendship and goodneighbourliness but also in promoting regional and multilateral cooperation so that the two countries take a worthy place in united Europe, it is pointed out in the letter.

The Turkish delegation visited Bulgaria for consultations with the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry. According to the spokesman of the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry, the two sides discussed the possibilities for promoting bilateral relations as well as international problems laying the emphasis on the situation in the Balkans.

Consultations Begin

AU0801192492 Sofia BTA in English 1846 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Sofia, January 8 (BTA)—In compliance with the agreements reached during the visit of Bulgarian Foreign Minister Stoyan Ganev to Ankara in December last year, political consultations were held in Sofia on January 7 and 8 between delegations of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria and Turkey led by the deputy ministers of foreign affairs of the two countries, Stefan Tafrov and Bilgin Unan.

The spokesman for the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the two delegations made a review of Bulgarian-Turkish relations assessing highly their stepped-up development. They agreed on opening negotiations on the problems of bilateral relations and on providing solutions to most of them as early as the first half of this year.

The two delegations reached an agreement on holding both regular and emergency political consultations between the two ministries on problems of mutual interest.

The Bulgarian side expounded the proposal made by Bulgarian Foreign Minister Stoyan Ganev for holding a meeting between military experts from Bulgaria, Turkey and Greece as a first step towards the implementation of the idea for trilateral consultations.

The delegations exchanged views on the developments in Yugoslavia and the Commonwealth of Independent States, as well as on the problem of the possible recognition of the breakaway republics as independent states. The delegates considered certain aspects of the initiative for Black Sea economic cooperation.

The Turkish delegation was received by Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov, by Mr. Stoyan Ganev, minister of foreign affairs and deputy prime minister, and by the chief of the office of the president, Mr. Ivaylo Trifonov.

The Turkish delegation delivered written messages from Turkish President Turgut Ozal to Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev and from Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel to Bulgarian Premier Filip Dimitrov.

The talks were held in an open and constructive atmosphere. The delegations expressed their clear-cut political will for dynamic development of bilateral relations in all areas, it is said in the statement of the spokesman for the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ludzhev Receives Greek Military Delegation

AU0801205092 Sofia BTA in English 1957 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Sofia, January 8 (BTA)—Talks were held today between Colonel General Ionasis Verivakis, chief of the General Staff of the Greek National Defence, and Bulgarian Minister of Defence Dimitur Ludzhev. Mr. Ludzhev informed the Greek general that the Bulgarian side is ready to exchange views and to discuss a possible package of complementary measures aimed at strengthening the confidence, security and cooperation between the two Armies. The Bulgarian and Greek Ministries of Defence are expected to sign a plan for cooperation in 1992 which is based on an earlier agreement between the two Armies.

President Zhelev Denounces General Strike

AU0801205492 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 2000 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Today's strike, which took place on the eve of the elections, is not only untimely and inappropriate, but also practically harmful, President Zhelyu Zhelev said at a meeting with Varna voters at the Festival Complex in response to a question from the floor.

During the election campaign one does not organize a national strike, President Zhelev continued. If it really takes place it could destabilize the country. Thus one cannot positively assess the strike, Dr. Zhelev stressed.

Strike Attendance Reported

AU0801171892 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1600 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] According to data received by the National Strike Committee by 1500 [1300 GMT] some 250,000 workers have actively participated in the strike. More than

450,000 workers throughout the country have participated symbolically in the strike. There is no information on real strikes in the fields of health protection, enterprises with around-the-clock production, and the power supply system. This was reported at a briefing by the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria, which ended at 1700 [1500 GMT].

Reported Numbers Differ

AU0801192792 Sofia Khristo Botev Radio Network in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] A national warning strike is taking place throughout the country at the call of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria [KNSB]. The incomplete information related to the participation in the strike, that was received so far, is rather contradictory.

According to information supplied by the KNSB about 250,000 workers have actively participated in the strike, and about 500,000 have striked symbolically. According to information supplied by the Council of Ministers about 100,000 workers have actively participated in the strike, while about 230,000 have striked symbolically.

Petkov Maintains Strike Count

AU0801141192 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1000 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Interview with Professor Krustyu Petkov, chairman of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria, by Silvio Stefanov, place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Stefanov] Mr. Petkov, during our investigations at various enterprises today, both I and my colleagues happened to come across a very serious contradiction between the announced and the real participation of workers in the nationwide warning strike. Even at the Agromashina Company, which you visited at 0800 [0600 GMT] this morning, about 1,600 people were supposed to join the strike, according to preliminary data, while according to the facts provided by the chairman of the strike committee himself, only 300 workers are participating.

[Petkov] Since I was there I can tell you that the 1,600 workers are not working together but on different shifts. They cannot all go on strike together, they will strike throughout the working day. At the rally I attended and addressed approximately 400 people were present. After the rally, the workers returned to the shops and the strike continued symbolically.

[Stefanov] Professor Petkov, I am sorry to interrupt you but, according to the chairman of the strike committee, the total number of workers in the enterprise in question is 1,000 and not 1,600. The figure 1,600 applies to the situation several months ago.

[Petkov] We must check what we are talking about. As far as I know, this enterprise has 1,500 workers. If you wish we can go together and check, we could even count them one by one.

[Stefanov] I usually believe what people tell me. Nevertheless, do you have any special system of obtaining reliable information?

[Petkov] It is not important to have a special system, anyway. The important thing is to show that in the majority of enterprises people readily responded to the appeal of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria and rose in defense of our trade unionist demands. We do not claim that this should be a whole day strike. Since yesterday we have been recommending a one-hour strike. We approve and accept the symbolic protest actions, and above all, we insist that everything should take place within the enterprises and shops. As far as statistics are concerned, we should not argue about this, considering that in every town and in every enterprise people have the opportunity to observe who is on strike and who is not. We should take into consideration the fact that altogether about 1,000 enterprises and workshops are idle because there is no work. Some of them are facing bankruptcy, and we cannot have any claims toward them. It is my impression from the situation here and from what I hear from Sofia that the strike has started, it is under way and is unprecedented

Zhelev Comments on Meeting With DPS Leaders

AU0801153392 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 31 Dec 91 p 1

["DUMA PRESS" report]

[Text] The representatives of the Rights and Freedoms Movement [DPS] wanted to find out my views on the country's immediate and more distant future, and they also showed interest in their chances of participation in Bulgarian political life. President Zhelyu Zhelev told a DUMA reporter this in connection with his meeting with the DPS leadership on 19 December.

It is an open secret that the DPS will support the presidential candidate of the Union of Democratic Forces-Democrats, despite the fact that the movement's representative was not among the leaders of the 11 political organizations who on 30 December signed an appeal and reconfirmed their loyalty to the incumbent president.

Zhelyu Zhelev denied the truth of the recently circulating rumors that at the meeting on 19 December the DPS demanded to participate in the government. Zhelev declined to give any answer concerning what demands were put to him at the meeting in connection with the upcoming presidential elections.

Interior Minister Dismisses 60 Regional Chiefs

AU0801170292 Sofia TRUD in Bulgarian 31 Dec 91 p 1

[Text] Yesterday, 30 December, a ministerial order was signed relieving about 60 directors and deputy directors from their posts in regional directorates of the Ministry of Internal Affairs throughout the country. The only places where no leadership changes are planned (at least for the moment!) are Sofia City, Kurdzhali, and Smolyan. The order comes into effect on 1 January 1992.

Most of the officers affected are said to have been retired on completion of their pensionable service, but in some cases the term used is "professional unsuitability." However, almost without exception their names appeared in the list of those awarded under secret Decree No. ',313 for their participation in the revival process [the 1984-85 campaign to force Bulgarian Muslims to change their names].

Many employees in the central administration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs were also relieved of their posts yesterday.

Dimitrov Chairs Property Confiscation Commission

AU0801171292 Sofia 24 CHASA in Bulgarian 30 Dec 91 p 3

[Text] Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov is chairing a commission on confiscation of the property of the totalitarian organizations, which has been set up in connection with the recently adopted law. The central commission was set up under a governmental decree issued on 29 December, and its members also include Kostov, Sokolov, Luchnikov, and Yanchulev.

The commission will assess how much accommodation and chattels should be allocated to the leaderships of the organizations concerned. The headquarters building of the Bulgarian Socialist Party has to be completely vacated before 2 January.

Oblast commissions will also deal with the same matters and establish the amounts of property in their areas.

Trial for Markov File Destruction Begins

AU0801192592 Sofia BTA in English 1823 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Sofia, January 8 (BTA)—The trial in connection with the destruction of the police file of emigre writer Georgi Markov, murdered in London in 1978, started this morning.

Former intelligence chief General Vladimir Todorov has been charged with the destruction of Markov's police file. Similar charges were brought against former Deputy Interior Minister Stoyan Savov who was found shot dead in his native village on January 6. Most probably he committed suicide. The case is being investigated. The indictment read today in court says that by destroying classified information about Georgi Markov General Todorov committed abuse of his official position and exceeded his authority. The hearing is held behind close doors. Under the Penal Code, on conviction General Todorov can be sentenced to eight years' imprisonment.

Kalugin Expected To Testify

AU0901143492 Sofia BTA in English 1329 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Sofia, January 9 (BTA)—Oleg Kalugin, former KGB officer, will arrive in Sofia in early February with the intention to clarify the role Moscow played in the assassination of Bulgarian emigre writer Georgi Markov who died under mysterious circumstances in London in 1978, "24 CHASA" writes, quoting presidential adviser Rumen Danov.

Last year Mr. Kalugin said that he had been present at a conversation in which a representative of the Bulgarian secret services asked the KGB for help to eliminate Georgi Markov. "Kalugin has already testified in a Moscow court," Mr. Danov said. According to him, ten KGB agents masterminded and carried out the operation which is known as the "Bulgarian umbrella" murder.

The Georgi Markov case again made headline news in connection with the trial that opened yesterday in which General Vladimir Todorov is charged with destroying Markov's file. Last year, shortly after it became known that Markov's case was missing, Gen. Todorov spent a couple of months in Moscow. There were hints in the press that he might have taken Markov's file with him. The general said he went to Moscow for health and family reasons (Gen. Todorov's mother-in-law lives in Moscow).

The other defendant in the case was Gen. Stoyan Savov, former deputy minister of the interior. However, the charges against him were dropped after he was found dead two days before the opening of the trial. "PODKREPA" quotes the head of the Criminal Investigation Department Gen. Katsamunski as saying that the post mortem showed that Gen. Savov had committed suicide.

The military prosecutors and judges promised that the trial of Gen. Todorov, which, after the reading of the indictment, was held behind closed doors, will end on Friday. No details have been given so far except that the defence insists on calling yet another witness. "The defence has promised to produce a sensational witness who will exculpate the defendant," "OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK" writes. Twelve witnesses have given evidence so far. Gen. Todorov is represented by the counsel of Milko Balev (Todor Zhivkov's closest aide) and Lyubomir Shindarov who are on trial for crimes committed under the totalitarian regime.

Gen. Todorov pleaded not guilty at the preliminary investigation.

According to the indictment, Georgi Markov's record, which consisted of 6 files, was consigned to the archives in 1979, after his death. It should have been preserved until 1999. It contained many classified documents, including agents' reports.

After the fall of the totalitarian regime, Georgi Markov's wife blamed the Bulgarian secret services for his death. In connection with a forthcoming visit to Bulgaria by a high-ranking British diplomat, General Atanas Semerdzhiev, the then interior minister and incumbent vice president, needed information about the Markov case record from General Todorov. He reported to his immediate superior, the late General Savov, that the documents are of no historical and operational importance. In breach of instructions and without an expert evaluation, General Savov left the decision to General Todorov: either to destroy the case record or to return it to the archives. General Todorov destroyed it in the shredder in his own office. Now he says he has seen only three thin files.

Under the Penal Code, on conviction General Todorov can be sentenced to eight years' imprisonment.

Former KGB Member Comments

AU0801151192 Sofia BTA in English 1353 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Sofia, January 8 (BTA)—Only the Bulgarian Secret Services have been involved in terrorist acts for the last 15 years as in the case of emigre-writer Georgi Markov's murder, Mr. Mikhail Lyubimov, former KGB station chief in Denmark, told a news conference in Sofia today. He also worked in London under diplomatic cover.

"I don't know why this was so," he added immediately. A thorough investigation is needed according to Mr. Lyubimov, who left the KGB in 1980. The KGB archives may contain the clue to many cases, Georgi Markov's case included, he said.

Mr. Lyubimov said that the KGB did not recruit agents in Bulgaria until 1980. "The relations between the special services were so friendly that there was no need for this. This decision was taken by our Politburo," he said. However, Mr. Lyubimov did not commit himself to a statement as to whether Kryuchkov had changed his mind about Bulgaria after the gentle revolutions in Eastern Europe and whether there are KGB agents in Bulgaria now. But according to him this was a big political decision.

UDF's Yordanov Interviewed on 1991 Legislation

AU0901104692 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 3 Jan 92 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Aleksandur Yordanov, chairman of the Union of Democratic Forces parliamentary faction, by DEMOKRATSIYA reporter Ventsislav Lakov; place and date not given: "We Enter a Year of Great Changes]

[Excerpts] [Lakov] How do you assess the past year in the context of the political changes in Eastern Europe?

[Yordanov] The year 1991 began with signing an agreement between the political forces represented in the Grand National Assembly, and this was a serious political treaty on peaceful and calmly changing the system. Unfortunately, toward the middle of the year it became clear that there are circles that do not accept the treaty and are ready to delay the process of change. Then social tension increased, and a group of Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] deputies initiated the only possible actions that could help accelerate the democratic process. Bulgaria could not progress from regular reformism to the stage of changing the system without new elections. Despite the fact that the elections were delayed, they produced the result the SDS forecast. With those elections the country joined a new rhythm of developing the democratic processes in Eastern Europe. Without the elections we could have found ourselves in the same situation as the former USSR, and to a certain degree the disintegrating Yugoslavia.

[Lakov] What will we face from now on?

[Yordanov] The year we enter will be a year of great changes. Those changes are mapped out in the National Assembly legislative activity. Now the legislative change of the country's economic and social system will be implemented in practice. First, this means that the property issue will be clarified. The people will practically feel the change at the moment the property relations can be clarified, and every citizen will have the possibility to demonstrate his ability under the rule of property relations. A whole series of laws will deal with that matter: The bill on amendments and addenda to the Law on Property and the Law on Use of Agrarian Land; the Law on Privatization and the restitution that is commented with it, the Law on Real Estate in the Cities, and the laws related to the foreign investments and the new tax system. We will also discuss drafts on updating the pensions and a new social security plan.

The legislature will then focus on decommunization. This is not an act conceived in the SDS "laboratories," or a repressive method of changing the system. We rather mean an intellectual process, without which the real association of Bulgaria with Europe is impossible. Decommunization is a long process related to changing awareness. Its essence is in eliminating the myths of the communist ideology and propaganda. The process cannot take place in a chaotic manner, because the retrograde social strata are still very powerful. I receive many letters in which people "forecast" a military coup with a view to stopping the changes. Therefore, the decommunization must be based on a stable legislative foundation. Apparently, it would be necessary to adopt a law that would create specific requirements for persons pursuing certain posts in state administration. We could utilize the CSFR experience, where a law was adopted

according to which party secretaries from the municipal level to the Politburo lost the right to implement leading state activity for five years.

The same applies to the State Security employees and other categories of people, who were most closely related to the communist regime and were its constructors. [passage omitted]

[Lakov] Do you think a new split in the SDS based on ideological differences is possible?

[Yordanov] The SDS is a unique phenomenon, because it united parties with different ideologies—from social democratic, through the liberal, to the conservative ideologies. Sometimes, this conglomerate confuses the people who think that the easiest way to settle contradictions in these tendencies is by forming separate parties. The only question is when to form the new parties. I have the impression that the political awareness of the people in Sofia and the major cities is exceptionally high and that the people can make their choice alone. However, the situation in most of the country is different—the SDS is viewed as a whole. For many people the SDS is the bridge of salvation that leads out of the crisis. We cannot afford to destroy this bridge. It is a matter of time, but I think that the SDS will begin to shape up from a political point of view only after we erect the legislative foundations of the new system. [passage omitted]

[Lakov] What do you expect from 1992?

[Yordanov] It will be a difficult year. Nevertheless, I believe that everything that will happen in 1992 will further remove us from a bad period in our life and bring us closer to a calm and secure future.

BSP Resolution on Parliamentary Work

AU0701180992 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 29 Dec 91 p 5

["Resolution of the 40th Congress of the Bulgarian Socialist Party on the Activity of the Bulgarian Socialist Party in Parliament and Local Organs of Government" adopted in Sofia on 16 December]

[Text] One of the most important results of the comprehensive renewal of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] is the process of transforming the party into a mass [masova] parliamentary party. During the period following 10 November 1989, the party established itself not only as a basic parliamentary force, but also as a main support of parliamentary democracy. Thanks to the decisive contribution of the BSP parliamentary majority, the Grand National Assembly fulfilled its mission: It adopted the new democratic Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria, laid the legislative foundation for the reforms in the political sphere, and preserved civil peace, withstanding the antiparliamentary pressure of the "velvet revolutionaries." The BSP became the main social guarantor of this process and consciously bore the brunt of the negative consequences of the numerous compromises and concessions and of the voluntary sharing of power with the other parliamentary forces.

Following the elections of 13 October 1990, major changes ensued in the social atmosphere. The BSP went into opposition. The Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] won the elections, albeit by a very narrow margin, and formed an independent minority government. This massively enhanced the role of the Rights and Freedoms Movement [DPS] in the National Assembly, while in certain regions of the country the DPS won a monopoly position in the local organs of state. The most alarming feature is that, given its present composition and the manner in which it has acted so far, the SDS-DPS parliamentary majority is attempting to eradicate the fragile shoots of parliamentarism and take us back to the rejected practice of past decades.

The National Assembly is beginning to lose its essential characteristics of a supreme legislative organ. The parliamentary majority is imposing by force its ready-made legislative remedies, which serve most narrow selfish interests. It is deliberately disregarding parliamentary control of the executive power and is turning the supreme organ of state into an uncritical observer of the government's actions and inaction. The National Assembly majority adopts laws that contravene Article 11, Paragraph 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria, under which no single party or ideology may declare or establish itself as the state party or ideology. The recent amendment to the Law on the Supreme Judicial Council constitutes a gross interference by the legislative and executive powers in the activities of the judicial organs, leading to their repoliticization. In this manner, basic democratic principles are falling victim to an extraordinary and repressive "legislative creativity" that aims to restore the past and that has nothing in common with the building of a state based on the rule of law. Parliament is becoming an arena for taking political revenge and settling accounts, as well as a source of dangerous tension. This style of conduct also predominates in the municipal councils in which the SDS and DPS have a majority.

The BSP has a strong parliamentary group and stable positions in most of the local government organs. The disregard of this fact by the SDS and DPS is a sign not of strength, but of political shortsightedness and lack of confidence in their own abilities. With its 106 parliamentary seats, the Parliamentary Union for Social Democracy, to which the BSP belongs, can stop any attempt to make arbitrary changes to the Constitution. Given the present composition of parliament, the BSP has a real chance to establish itself as the main social force of the left, defending broad social interests and political standpoints in the parliamentary center and left-of-center. Today, the opportunity is opening up for the BSP to be a constructive, flexible, and resolute opposition:

—Constructive—in proposing optimal legislative and administrative solutions and offering constructive criticism when necessary.

—Flexible—in seeking consensus in the name of democracy, civil peace, and national interests.

—Resolute—in defending the vital interests of working people. An opposition that builds, preserves, and develops the left alternative in the Bulgarian parliament, however shortlived this parliament may prove to be, and however difficult the conditions are for working in this parliament.

1. As well as making principled criticism of the draft laws submitted by the ruling coalition, the Socialist deputies should more actively take the legislative initiative. Regardless of the apparent intention of the SDS and DPS not to permit the BSP's draft laws to reach parliament in plenary session, the Socialist deputies must finally draft and present to the public at large the priority draft laws that stem from the party's election campaign platform. These concepts on the economic reform, social protection, and national security, should clearly delineate the left alternative in the transition to a new society, counterbalancing the antidemocratic and antisocial "legislation" imposed by the ruling majority in the service of selfish and narrow party interests.

2. The Socialist deputies in parliament should pay special attention to systematic, competent parliamentary control of the government's activities. The control of the executive power should reveal both the real abilities of the present cabinet and the image of a truly new and democratic opposition. The tasks of the team of spokesmen are especially important: They must keep a check on the activities of the relevant ministers, propose competitive solutions, and provide broad publicity for existing problems and alternative approaches for overcoming them.

3. The Socialist deputies should pay particular attention to their links with the public and their role in forming public opinion. The party and the electors have a constitutional right to receive information about parliamentary life. The Socialist deputies have a duty to exercise this right in the forms that the law allows them: by permanent direct contacts with the electors in the relevant constituencies, by maximum utilization of the mass media, and by seeking cooperation with extraparliamentary parties and social organizations, especially with the trade unions. With procedural assistance from the BSP Supreme Council, the BSP regional and municipal councils, together with the leading BSP members of parliament in the relevant districts, should organize cooperation between the local party structures, members of parliament, and Socialist municipal councillors and maintain constructive contacts with the local leaderships of the member parties of the Parliamentary Union for Social Democracy and the other political forces.

4. The Socialists serving in the municipal councils and township administrations should make the fullest possible use of all opportunities for developing an adequate communal policy and for directing the activities of the local government organs toward solving their people's specific problems.

Attention should be focused on issues connected with fulfilling or defending the BSP's local election campaign platforms. Work should be concentrated on the following: the problems of restoring and ensuring public law, order, and security in the territories concerned; active efforts to preserve and create new jobs; implementation of a new housing policy, under which the municipality provides housing for socially disadvantaged families; concrete actions to protect and restore the environment; provision of reliable and accessible public transportation and a technical infrastructure—water, electrical, and central heating supplies, communications, and so on; maintenance of the systems of health care, education, culture, and social welfare in the municipalities; concern for improving supplies of basic food goods and services; and creating regional conditions for reviving production, paying particular attention to modern cooperative forms of production. The BSP will support professionalism among the cadres serving in the municipal councils and will utilize various opportunities and forms in order to raise the standard of their administrative training.

In their work, Socialists must campaign to increase the independence of the local populated areas and expand the possibilities for the organs of local government and self-government to solve their people's problems. In order to achieve this goal, it is necessary to increase the autonomy of the budgets of the municipalities and settlements by introducing objective criteria and mechanisms for determining the amount of the state subsidy that will ensure normal life in the municipalities concerned. Particular attention should be paid to protecting and increasing municipal ownership, by transferring state property, efficient management and administration, and other methods.

The BSP confirms its readiness and determination to consolidate and develop the basic democratic structures of the social organism through the active, principled, and socially beneficial participation of the Socialists in these structures.

Glushkov Interviewed on BZNS-SDS Cooperation

AU0701114592 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 27 Dec 91 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Ivan Glushkov, former member of the Bulgarian Agrarian National Union leadership, by Emil Mladenov, DEMOKRATSIYA reporter; place and date not given: "Cooperation With SDS is Salvation for BZNS"]

[Excerpts] Recently the "Bulgarian Agrarian National Union [BZNS] and Future" movement published a

proposal to sign a political agreement between the BZNS-United and the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] on cooperation in the efforts to democratize and decommunize the country. Soon afterward, a working meeting between the leaders of the two organizations took place. However, a few days after the meeting Ivan Glushkov, coordinator of the "BZNS and Future," and his deputy, Boris Spirov, announced that they dissolve the movement, and both discontinued their membership in the BZNS-United.

[Mladenov] Is it only because of Christmas that we are talking now at your home, rather than at your place of work?

[Glushkov] At the moment I have allowed myself to take a brief vacation. For me it will be a period of thought and balance, during which I will assess what has been done and must be done for our society's democratization. In other words, despite the fact that I left the BZNS-United, I have no intention of abstaining from active participation in the country's political life.

[Mladenov] However, your vacation came as rather a surprise, especially just after you had announced the ambitious intentions of the "BZNS and Future" to effect a renewal and radical changes in the BZNS.

[Glushkov] Our goal was to find an appropriate place for the BZNS-United in the process of democratization begun in Bulgaria. We also aimed to mobilize the entire intellectual, creative, and organizational potential of the BZNS and to positively address the dilemma it faces—to be or not to be. We were not seceders or people hungry for power. We acted as an ideological current within the BZNS-United. However, its leadership obviously decided that those who think like Glushkov and Spirov are a serious threat to its power. Thus, in an unprecedented and inadmissible manner, at Tsenko Barev's personal demand, an iron curtain of silence was erected in ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME, which stopped all reports on the activities of the "BZNS and Future." A campaign of insinuations, falsification, and accusations against us in the spirit of the best traditions of totalitarianism began. This is inadmissible in an organization claiming to be democratic. Therefore, as a protest act, we dissolved the movement and decided with Boris Spirov that remaining in the BZNS-United is pointless.

[Mladenov] Nevertheless, you declared that you remain convinced agrarians and will surely demonstrate this in some form at the forthcoming BZNS-United congress.

[Glushkov] I am convinced that our ideas have already found a great response and support among a large part of the allied agrarians and that our line of renewal will prevail at the congress (if it takes place at all, because one can already see signs of fear in the leadership, which understands that changes are inevitable and will do everything possible to postpone the congress).

[Mladenov] It is expected that the congress will work out the final decision on the unification of the two agrarian unions.

[Glushkov] If one can judge from the preliminary talks between the leaderships of the Nikola Petkov BZNS and the BZNS-United, it appears that a situation has emerged which will hardly be supported by the thousands of allied agrarians in Bulgaria, namely, that the BZNS-United dissolve itself. Thus the leadership has practically turned into the liquidator of the BZNS-United without even asking the more than 100,000 BZNS-United members for their opinion. Is it normal to inflict a crushing blow on the thousands of BZNS-United rank and file members, who have nothing to do with the communist- socialist agrarians at all levels who were connected with the totalitarian period when our union was obliterated as a political formation? Only the congress, rather than Tsenko Barev, the Permanent Board, and the Administrative Council must decide the fate of the organization. [passage omitted]

[Mladenov] How would you describe the attitude of the two BZNS toward the SDS?

[Glushkov] This is a strategic problem, the litmus that will show how correct their ideas and positions on Bulgaria's democratization are. A substantial part of the BZNS-United leadership, led by Tsenko Barev, conducts a policy of dissociation and remoteness from the SDS. It is strange that while the BZNS-United election platform appealed for close cooperation with all democratic forces, and first of all the SDS, Tsenko Barev, Svetoslav Shivarov, Mikhail Mikhaylov, and Petur Ogoyski did not miss any opportunity in the election campaign to slander the SDS. The results of this "approach" were sadly reflected in the election outcome. However, it is a fact that those four persons continue to implement the so-called line of equal dissociation from the Bulgarian Socialist Party and the SDS under the pretext of conducting an alleged centrist policy. I think that it would be lethal for the BZNS if this line were to prevail in the near future. [passage omitted]

SDS Interference With Judiciary Alleged

AU0701123492 Sofia TRUD in Bulgarian 28 Dec 91 p 2

[Letter from the Bulgarian Democratic Center Political Council to the president of the Republic and members of the Constitutional Court; place and date of issue not given: "Laws Prepared Under Logic of Vishinskiy"]

[Text] Gentlemen,

The Political Council of the Bulgarian Democratic Center expresses its serious concern with certain laws that were adopted. We mean the Law on the Property of the Bulgarian Communist Party, the Bulgarian Agrarian National Union, the Fatherland Front, the Dimitrov Komsomol, the Union of Fighters Against Fascism and

Capitalism, and the Bulgarian Trade Unions, and the Law on Amendments and Addenda to the Law on the Supreme Judicial Council.

Both cases represent a serious attempt to amend the Constitution. The governing majority of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] turned the first law, which was justified in its motivation—seizing the property of the official organizations of the period before 10 November—into a repressive act based on the logic of Andrey Vishinskiy [chief prosecutor in the Great Purge trials in the USSR in 1936-39]. From a purely legal point of view the law is retroactive. In addition, from the viewpoint of the international law and in accordance with Article 5, Paragraph 4 of the constitution, it ignores the fact that Bulgaria has signed Convention No. 87 on the trade union rights, whose Article 3 forbids any attempt against the property of the trade unions in general, which specifically means—the Confederation of Independent Trade Union [KNSB].

The amendments and addenda to the Law on the Supreme Judicial Council were adopted in the same manner, which in purely Leninist fashion mixes the executive and judiciary powers and subjugates the judiciary to the executive power.

We are concerned with the intention to elect a new membership of the Supreme Judicial Council, which could be interpreted only as "purging" inconvenient people and appointing "our gang."

The Bulgarian Democratic Center warns that those two laws mark the beginning of SDS' interference with the independent judiciary, something that destabilizes the democratic institutions, which were formed after so many difficulties.

Idleness and silence on issues related to the judicial foundations of our state are a dangerous precedent and will compel us to use methods of civil disobedience in defending the legal guarantees of our rights and freedoms.

We express our respect and hope that you will rapidly interfere in this matter.

Political Council of the Bulgarian Democratic Center.

Editorial note: The Bulgarian Democratic Center is composed of the following parties and movements: the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party, the Green Party, "Ecoglasnost," the Democratic Party-Constitutional Alliance, the Democratic Party-Plovdiv, and Alternative Social Association-Independent.

Ministry Voices 'Alarm' Over Helicopter Downing

LD0801175392 Prague Stanice Ceskoslovensko Radio Network in Slovak 1700 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Jan Kubis, general director of Euroatlantic Section of the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry, reveived in Prague today Stanislav Stojanovic, Yugoslav ambassador in Czechoslovakia. He expressed the alarm of the Czechoslovak side over the gunning down of two helicopters of the EC monitoring mission by a Yugoslav warplane. He went on to say that our side firmly condemns this deed, demands its thorough investigation and the punishment of the culprits.

Social Democracy Views Havel Electoral Proposal

LD0701162192 Prague Stanice Praha Radio Network in Czech 1130 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] At its press briefing today, the Czechoslovak Social Democracy expressed its standpoint on the draft electoral law submitted by President Vaclav Havel. Alexander Picha reports:

[Picha] Chairman Jiri Horak voiced support for the proportional electoral system, but said that the majority electoral system would be more suitable for the long-term. Social Democracy is not of the opinion that President Havel's proposal can ensure the best possible link between the electorate and parliament. However, it endorses the five percent vote limit needed for gaining seats in the parliament.

Jiri Horak also voiced his disagreement with the possibility of voters being able to change the order on the lists of candidates decided by the parties. The Social Democracy leaders further confirmed that they will back trade unions' demands not to permit a fall in real wages of the population. Replying to a question from Radio Czechoslovakia about whether they will support the demands by air-traffic controllers, Stanislav Hosek responded without further explanation that the Social Democracy will support wage demands that are not at the expense of somebody else.

Trial of Former Ministry Officials To Continue

AU0801104392 Prague CSTK in English 1321 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Prague Jan 6 (CSTK)—The trial of a former Czechoslovak interior minister and two other former high-level Interior Ministry officials, all charged with abuse of office, will continue January 14 at the Higher Military Court in Tabor, south Bohemia.

Former Interior Minister Lieutenant General Frantisek Kincl, his deputy, Lieutenant General Alojz Lorenc, and Colonel Karel Vykypel, former chief of the disbanded police counterintelligence service, face charges for ordering the arrests of "antisocialist forces" in 1988 and 1989.

Their trial was postponed in Prague last month when defense lawyer Pavel Klimes objected that as some of the judges on the Prague Military Court had not been confirmed to their chairs for life, they could be biased in the case since Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel and Defense Minister Lubos Dobrovsky, both responsible for naming judges to life seats, were themselves cited in the case.

The head of the Higher Military Court that is hearing the case, Judge Jiri Bernat, set the date for the trial's continuation and for the change of venue. Bernat was given a life seat as judge this month. He told CSTK he thought the defense's earlier objection against the judges was "unjustified".

Minister Denies Links With Former Secret Police

LD0701163292 Prague CSTK in English 1406 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Prague Jan 7 (CSTK)—Czech Justice Minister Leon Richter, who offered his resignation on January 2, today rejected charges of having collaborated with the former secret police StB, saying "my hands are clean".

At a press conference, Richter said that in 1956 he refused an offer of a job in a nuclear research institute near Prague, made on condition he would provide economic information. He said he never signed any pledge to collaborate with and never gave any information to the StB.

Richter said that among the other reasons for his resignation was that he was overworked and his health condition was not very good. He said the last straw was criticism in the Czech parliament of his work as chairman of the Czech Government's Legislative Council.

Richter said he thought it unlikely that the Czech National Council (parliament) would not accept his resignation, but told CSTK he would be glad if he could head the Justice Ministry until the elections, due in June.

Reviewing the work of the Justice Ministry, Richter said conditions had been created for the judiciary to be able to function properly. He said, however, that the process of rehabilitation of persons unjustly harmed under communist rule is going on very slowly.

Complaint Against Communist Party Approved

AU0801083592 Bratislava VEREJNOST in Slovak 6 Jan 92 p 2

[Unattributed report in the "Statements" column]

[Text] The filing of a criminal complaint against the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and its political and legal successors—the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia and the ?Party of Democratic Left—for crimes against humanity was approved in Brno on 4 January by the spokesmen of the independent Civic Initiative O.K. (adversaries of communism) from the whole CSFR.

The members of this initiative will file the complaint, based on UN General Assembly resolution 95/I dated 11

December 1946 and several Czechoslovak laws, with appropriate courts in their respective places of residence.

Republican Party's Kohut Sees Chairman as Dictator

AU0801084292 Bratislava SMENA in Slovak 6 Jan 92 p 1

[Unattributed report on CSTK interview with Jiri Kohut, deputy chairman of the Association for the Republic-Republican Party of Czechoslovakia; place and date not given: "Is Sladek a Dictator?"]

[Text] "Republican Chairman Miroslav Sladek is a dictator concerned only about himself and gaining popularity at any cost. He does not care about the party." Jiri Kohut, one of the Republican Party founding members and still the deputy chairman of the Association for the Republic-Republican Party of Czechoslovakia, made this statement in an interview with a CSTK correspondent.

"Miroslav Sladek conveys to the public only his own opinions without consulting anyone. If he encounters open criticism, he responds by expelling the critics from the party," he emphasized.

Slovak Democrats Want To Start Right-Wing Bloc

AU0801110492 Prague CSTK in English 2006 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Bratislava Jan 6 (CSTK)—The Democratic Party (DS) in Slovakia will initiate creating a pre-election bloc of rightist parties from Slovakia and Bohemia, DS Chairman Jan Holcik told journalists today.

The DS is one of the four Slovak Government parties and has seven deputies in the 150-seat Slovak National Council (parliament).

Holcik supported the minimum 5-percent level of votes for parties to get to parliaments in the next elections scheduled to be held in June. This, he said, would select only the more important out of the total of 80 registered political parties and movements.

On Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel's draft electoral bill Holcik said it is based on a rather unrealistic assessment of the internal political situation in Czechoslovakia by some of the president's advisers.

In the draft submitted to the Federal Assembly (parliament) in December, Havel proposed a combination of the proportional and the winner-take-all systems for the June elections. In the previous balloting in June 1990, the proportional system was applied.

Holcik said the Slovak Government as well as opposition parties agree the proportional system should again be used.

Minister Outlines Coupon Privatization Process

AU0801122892 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Slovak 6 Jan 92 p 2

[Interview with Ivan Miklos, Slovak minister for the privatization and administration of national property, by Stefan Hrib; place and date not given: "Up to One Million Shareholders"]

[Text] Large-scale privatization will, obviously, be the most important economic event in our country in 1992. We interviewed Ivan Miklos, Slovak minister for the privatization and administration of national property, on how this process will take place in Slovakia.

[Hrib] How many people in Slovakia hold coupon books?

[Miklos] There are approximately 150,000 registered coupon book holders and their number is growing. During the course of January, the number of registered coupon book holders should increase exponentially. However, it is difficult to estimate the final number. My personal rough estimate for the Slovak Republic is 500,000-600,000; perhaps, this number will even reach 1 million.

[Hrib] What is the situation regarding privatization investment funds? How many of them are there in Slovakia?

[Miklos] The number of privatization investment funds is sufficient. We have approved 184 of them in the Slovak Republic. Of this number, 50 are made up of state enterprises and state shareholding companies and the others are private. This is a good ratio, and I envisage that privatization investment funds will also play a positive role in generating interest in privatization and will thus contribute toward a rapid increase in the number of people becoming involved in it. Some privatization investment funds are today offering such advantageous terms (for example, the guaranteed purchase of shares worth 10,000 korunas within a year for a deposit of 1,000 korunas) that a rapid increase in the number of people registered should be guaranteed.

[Hrib] What is the quality of rival privatization projects like? Are rival privatization projects really competitive? Do they have a chance of replacing the original ones?

[Miklos] The quality of privatization projects varies. However, on the whole it is not very encouraging. The errors can be divided into two categories—objective and subjective. The objective errors mainly consist of the fact that the privatization projects were drawn up at a time when the final wording of the commercial code—which came into effect on 1 January 1992—was still unknown and so the projects do not comply with some of its stipulations. The subjective errors stem from an underestimation of the planning and consideration necessary for the projects and especially involve obligatory stipulations regarding what the project should embrace in accordance with Paragraph 6 of the code. This mostly involves a lack of documentation regarding the way the

property was acquired by the state, the incomplete nature of the projects, failure to reach a settlement regarding unusable property, and so on. We return erroneous schemes for finalizing or for redrafting along with detailed guidelines and requirements.

[Hrib] Will you manage to evaluate the projects within the specified time limit?

[Miklos] So far, there is no "definite" time limit. We have set an internal deadline of the end of January for considering schemes for enterprises included in the first wave of coupon privatization and we are doing all we can to ensure we achieve this. The situation is complicated by the projects' aforementioned lack of quality and the need for their redrafting.

[Hrib] Where will you personally invest your coupons?

[Miklos] I have already purchased my coupon book and registered myself. However, I have not yet had time to think about where I will invest my coupons.

Small Privatization in Slovakia Gains Momentum

AU0801082892 Bratislava VEREJNOST in Slovak 6 Jan 92 p 2

[CSTK report: The Current State of the Small-Scale Privatization]

[Text] Bratislava—So far, 11,953 businesses have been registered for the small-scale privatization in Slovakia and more than 7,300 of them have been auctioned off. There were almost 1900 sales at the calling price, i.e. the purchasers did not have to bid above the asking price. Following a certain decline, particularly in the summer months, the number of auctions in Slovakia increased substantially during the fall, and the total value of businesses sold also increased. While 200 million korunas' worth of enterprises used to be sold in a week, the average for the recent weeks is at least 450 million korunas. The improved success of the auctions is largely a result of the adopted edict on prices of buildings and land in effect from 1 January 1992.

The total financial results of the auctions are not without interest. The total sum of the calling prices of the businesses was 6.7 billion korunas, while the amount achieved in auctions exceeded 8.3 billion.

Democratic Left Leader Examines Economic Reform

LD0801064192 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1100 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Interview with Pater Weiss, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Party of Democratic Left, by correspondent Ivan Kofek on 7 January; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] After the Christmas and New Year's break, many topical issues of the domestic political scene have resurfaced. Some were discussed at today's news conference, held by the Party of the Democratic Left [PDL]. Ivan Kofek interviewed Pater Weiss, chairman of the PDL Executive Comittee.

[Kofek] You pointed out at today's news conference a certain variance between the evaluations of economic problems and the real situation as seen by President Havel and Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus. What are the differences, and what does this signify?

[Weiss] The difference is the optimism of Mr. Klaus compared to the sometimes grim vision of 1992 and lack of specific solutions characterizing the New Year address by the president. This shows that there different prisms through which to judge the economic and social situations and the domestic political situation. It also shows that the decision-making centers of political power have different views on how to solve the problems. They rely on different ways and means to solve problems.

In my view, what is essential is how the citizens react to all this. No one has any illusions that the transformation will be painless, or that it will not demand sacrifice. But when 87 percent of Slovak citizens, according to a recently published opinion poll, say they were dissatisfied with 1991, then you lose the most essential ingredient for the success of the transformation, which is social consensus.

Moreover, there is the problem of the relationship with the trade unions. Yesterday at a news conference, one of the government coalition representatives essentially branded the trade unions enemies who allegedly make unreasonable demands. The question is: Do we want a social partnership, or will government never be wrong and do what it wants, while the citizens and the unions stay silent.

[Kofek] There has been quite a commotion in the last few days about the stance and demands of air traffic controllers. What do you think this problem shows? Is there a fear that their stance or demands will set off a chain reaction in the future?

[Weiss] This group of employees pointed out to the government that the latter's representatives were not honoring their pre-election promises and that they were not conscientious enough when working on the most essential thing—a real market environment. I do not think that the principal dispute is about wage demands.

When Mr. Klaus says that it could have a deadly effect, we have to ask ourselves, taking into account the 87 percent of dissatisfied citizens, whether it is actually the government's policy that has a deadly effect on citizens. [passage omitted]

SDL Leader Cited on 'Unhealthy' Economic Reform

LD0701163292 Prague CSTK in English 1401 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Bratislava Jan 7 (CSTK)—The chairman of Slovakia's Democratic Left party (SDL—former communists), Peter Weiss, today said the Federal and Slovak Govenments have not attempted to create conditions for long-term social consensus in Czechsolovakia.

He told journalists current government plans for econmic reform are unhealthy and said they are being carried out against the wish of the majority of of society.

Weiss called for policies of national understanding to resolve Czechoslovakia's political and economic difficulties.

In a November poll the SDL was supported by 12 per cent of Slovak residents.

Economists on Government's 'Most Serious' Mistakes

AU0701195892

[Editorial Report] Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech on 31 December on page 6 carries a 2,800-word statement signed by 14 "Czech and Slovak independent economists" entitled "Economic Transformation: Successes and Weak Points." Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech on 2 January on page 2 carries a 600-word Jiri Leschtina commentary entitled "A Breath of Fresh Air." The commentary examines the significance of the 14 economists' statement.

In the first part of their statement in the 31 December issue of LIDOVE NOVINY, the signatories of the statement by Czech and Slovak independent economists defend the principles of the government's "strategy of economic transformation" against its "left-wing critics." In particular, they emphasize the importance and the benefits of price liberalization; the opening of the Czechoslovak economy; the introduction of the koruna's internal convertibility and its devaluation; the policy of monetary and budgetary restrictions; and the priority given to the privatization of the economy, including coupon privatization. They also reject the criticism of the government's "left-wing" opponents that "the government does not pursue the path of so-called structural policy based on 'scientific' forecasts and 'strategic planning'."

In the second part of their statement, the economists draw attention to the "more or less serious shortcomings that the strategy pursued heretofore has not avoided." The economists consider the following five "mistakes" to have been "the most serious" of all:

"The first serious mistake," in the economists' view, has been "the government's scant attention to, and support for, newly established small and medium-sized private businesses." The economists deplore the fact that the importance of small and medium-sized businesses as the "engine" of the economy is "still not fully appreciated in Czechoslovakia" and that, in their credit policy, Czechoslovak banks continue to prefer large state enterprises.

"The second mistake," the signatories of the statement continue, "one that is closely related to the first, is that, in the two years since the velvet revolution, only about one-tenth of the required number of small private enterprises have been created by means of small-scale privatization." As a result, the private sector has not been able to make a significant contribution to the national product, to the creation of new jobs, and to the creation of an economically competitive environment.

The economists believe that small-scale privatization should have also included the privatization of state-owned apartments, which, apart from improving the quality of housing, would have reduced the problems concerning the liberalization of housing rents, increased the mobility of labor, and improved the public's attitude toward private property. The economists therefore regard the "acceleration and the expansion of the scope of small-scale privatization as indispensable."

The "third mistake," according to the 14 economists, has been to ban the sale of privatization coupons because this ban "slows down the process of concentration of capital, reduces the efficiency of the capital market, and, in general, damages the credibility of privatization in the eyes of the public." The economists point out that, besides being inefficient, this ban is also "futile" because market forces cannot be restrained by "administrative bans." They also challenge the official claim that the ban on selling privatization coupons was designed to protect "the inexperienced citizen," arguing that, in reality, it is the bureaucratic restriction of the development of the market that damages the citizen most of all.

The "fourth mistake" of the economic reform strategy pursued thus far, the economists' statement continues, has been the "politicians', governments', and parliaments' fearful attitude toward foreign capital." The signatories charge that "moreover, this essentially socialist aversion for foreign capital is coupled with national aversion." They emphasize the potential benefits of foreign capital inflows and dismiss as "totally absurd" the widespread fear that, given the koruna's current rate of exchange, "foreign capital would buy up the entire Czechoslovak national economy in the course of a single afternoon," were it not for "protective restrictions." The 14 economists regard these "restrictions"—among which they single out the exclusion of foreign capital from the first round of small-scale privatization and from the large-scale privatization of "selected enterprises regarded as so-called family silver," the exclusion of foreign nationals from land ownership, and the restriction of foreign banks' activities in Czechoslovakia—as "highly mistaken." They point out that investments in the post-communist countries are very risky today and that, rather than being restricted, foreign investments ought to be "supported and preferred as much as possible," for example by means of tax relief.

Finally, the "fifth mistake of the economic policy implemented thus far" has been the "scant support given to the development of banking, internal revenue, and, above all, legal institutions."

In concluding, the signatories state that "the objective of this statement is to make it become a point of departure for discussions about the strategy of economic transformation in Czechoslovakia." In their opinion, these discussions ought to be "constructive" and free of political slogans and ideological attacks.

The following 14 signatures are attached to the LIDOVE NOVINY statement: Vladimir Benacek (Charles University); Ales Bulir (Prague Economic College, London School of Economics); Jiri Hlavacek (Charles University); Milan Horniacek (Charles University); Jiri Kosta (University of Frankfurt); Karel Kouba (Charles University); Jozef Kucerak (Bratislava); Oldrich Kyn (Boston University, Charles University); Michal Mejstrik (Charles University); Pavel Pelikan (Institute for Economic Studies, Stockholm); Jiri Slama (Institute for Eastern Europe, Munich, Prague Economic College); Zdenek Tuma (Charles University); Petr Zahradnik (Economic Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences); Alena Zemplinerova (Economic Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Princeton University).

In his commentary in the 2 January 1992 issue of Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech, Jiri Leschtina points out that the criticism of the reform heard so far has come mainly from left-wing critics, such as Federal Assembly deputies and economists Milos Zeman and Valtr Komarek, and has been marked by "populist proclamations and personal attacks." He welcomes the statement by Czech and Slovak economists published by LIDOVE NOVINY as a "breath of fresh air" and as "the first comprehensive right-oriented critical assessment of the reform in the two years since the reform was launched." Leschtina believes that the government's response to the 14 economists' statement—which he interprets as a "call on the government not to yield to political pressures from the outside and to its own populist temptations and to insist on a thorough transformation of the economy on market principles"—ought to be "more than positive."

State Bank Shows Healthy Balance of Payments

LD0801070492 Prague Stanice Ceskoslovensko Radio Network in Czech 1700 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] The Czechoslovak State Bank has issued preliminary results on the balance of payments for last year. Barbora Tacheci discussed this with the bank's Vice Chairman Jan Zahradnik:

[Begin recording] [Tacheci] Czechoslovakia was drawing several foreign loans last year. Foreign trade was not doing too well, but despite all this the central bank was very happy with the balance of payments for the year. Did you remain happy until the end of the year?

[Zaharadnik] Yes, we did. Our listeners may recall that at the beginning of the year we spoke about a possible deficit in the balance of payments of about $2.5 billion. Now it seems that our balance of payments will end somewhere in the region of zero. Our payments in freely convertible currency will be balanced.

[Tacheci] What are the reasons for this relatively favorable development?

[Zahradnik] According to our analysis, there have been three more favorable than expected changes. The first is that in 1990 our enterprises were doing everything possible to cut their demand for hard currency allocations. They established their own considerable stocks. The stocks increased by some 50 billion kopeks, by some 1.7 to 1.8 million dollars in some kind of hidden reserves. The second changes is that the fall in the economic activity led to a fall in demand for imports, thus stock has increased. The third point is that the situation in the sphere of oil prices and supplies looked worse at the beginning of last year than the actual situation later that year. Naturally, there was a less favorable development in the situation concerning our payments from the Soviet Union in freely convertible currencies.

[Tacheci] At the beginning you said that instead of the envisaged deficit of of more than $2 billion, our balance of payments will most probably be balanced. Does this mean that the $2 billion we borrowed in the course of last year will go into our hard currency reserves?

[Zahradnik] It will not go. It has already gone into the hard currency reserves of the Czechoslovak banking system. The reserves have increased from 1.3 billion dollars to more than 3.4 billion dollars.

[Tacheci] And one last question from Mr. Vice Chairman. This February our credit from the International Monetary Fund expires. Despite having the relatively good development of the balance of payments, will there be further loans, and how big will they be?

[Zahradnik] We have arranged with the IMF that its mission will arrive in our country in January to discuss the possibility of obtaining resources for Czechoslovakia in 1992. Although the balance of payments itself does not require using foreign sources, we do envisage using some foreign resources. I cannot specify the sum yet. All this will increase the hard currency reserves. [end recording]

SFRY Training Camp Accusations Detailed

LD0801201492 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1730 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Discussion program featuring Defense Ministry spokesman Gyorgy Keleti; military policy expert Peter Deak; and international law expert Tamas Kende; hosted by unidentified announcer—live]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] There has been worldwide shock that the Yugoslav Army shot down one of the helicopters of the EC observers, and that four Italian and one French officer were killed. [passage omitted]

Yugoslavia has again accused our country, Germany, and Austria of violating the UN ban on arms deliveries; circles in Belgrade also emphasize that so-called Croatian terrorists have been trained in Hungary.

The first question is for Gyorgy Keleti. Where are these supposed training camps? Do they exist?

[Keleti] This is the first time that the Yugoslav government has named these camps in a statement. According to this, these camps can be found near the border. It mentions, by name, Harkany, Pecs, the area of Siklos, as well as Mariagyud which is close to Siklos. To my knowledge this is a region where there is a refugee camp. At the same time, the statement says that Hungarian military officers have taken part in training, and that this training takes place on disused Soviet practice grounds, for example in Beremend, 8 km from Mohacs, and also at a spot near Kaposvar.

On the basis of information which is completely official, I can say that there is no former Soviet practice ground in Beremend or near Kaposvar.

The statement also mentions the name of a person, Attila Gyula, supposedly a lieutenant colonel in the Hungarian Army. Yesterday evening, several people came into the [Defense] Ministry to look through the records on machine and on cards. There is not now, nor has there been in the past 30 years, any professional soldier named Attila Gyula or Gyula Attila who might have served in the Hungarian Army.

I think that we must take these charges very seriously.

[Announcer] Yes?

[Keleti] Yes. Previously, during the past one to one and a half months, it was various military district commanders or leaders of Serbian free troops or others who made statements eliciting a lot of reaction, in which we were accused. However, this current statement is a document of the Yugoslav government which was sent to the UN Security Council. Thus it comes from the highest level.

I most resolutely deny and reject the accusation that the Hungarian Army might have taken upon itself any task or that it might have taken any measure by means of which it would intervene in the internal affairs of Yugoslavia. That is, every slander of this type is only fit for misleading Yugoslav opinion, public opinion, and for turning it against the Hungarian Republic, the Hungarian Army. [passage omitted]

[Keleti] It is my conviction that no matter what kind of efforts are being made at the moment to denigrate Hungary before domestic and international public opinion, Hungary will continue to display moderate behavior by not interfering in these development in any circumstances. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] A helicopter was shot down and another was forced to land in Yugoslavia. Did the observation unit of the Hungarian Army see what happened ?

[Keleti] Yesterday afternoon I asked those on duty at the military air defense unit in Veszprem. Neither our radars nior our radios saw or heard anything indicating this tragic event. [passage omitted]

Allegations Denied

LD0801194792 Budapest MTI in English 1731 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Budapest, January 8 (MTI)—Hungarian officers have not been, and are not being, involved in the training of Croatian policemen and National Guardsmen, Defence Ministry spokesman Col. Gyorgy Keleti told MTI today.

The statement followed a memorandum presented to the U.N. Security Council by Yugoslavia, accusing the Hungarian Army of training saboteurs.

The Hungarian Army has not trained and is not training sabouteurs, Keleti said.

Making further denials, Keleti said Soviet exercise grounds never existed at Beremend and Kaposvar, and that Lt. Col. Attila Gyula, named as main planner and organizer of the Croatian units, is a non-existent person. Over the past 30 years, there has been no Hungarian Army officer of that name, Keleti said.

About the charge 250 Croatian guardsmen were trained in Nagyatad as terrorists, a Ministry of Home Affairs official said the former barracks of Nagyatad are now inhabited by Yugoslav refugees, mostly women and children.

None of them are allowed to keep weapons, the official said. Of course, the refugees are allowed to do sports on their own accord and use gymnastic equipment. Nevertheless, one can hardly prepare for a sabotage action by doing some push-ups.

Arms Deliveries Denied

LD0801194192 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1636 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Budapest, Jan 8 (TANJUG)—The Hungarian Defence Ministry today denied allegations by the Yugoslav Government that Hungary, together with Austria, Germany and "some other countries," had violated a UN embargo on arms deliveries to the warring sides in Yugoslavia.

Defence Ministry spokesman Col. Gyorgy Keleti has told the Hungarian daily NEPSZABADSAG that "all accusations are groundless, according to which even a slightest shadow has been cast on the Hungarian Army for interfering into the Yugoslav conflict in any way."

The Yugoslav Government on January 2 sent a memorandum to the UN Security Council, accusing the mentioned countries of being "directly or indirectly" involved in deliveries of arms and military equipment to the secessionist Yugoslav Republic of Croatia.

The Yugoslav Government said that on September 25-27, October 6-8 and November 29 arms, ammunition and military equipment had been transported to Croatia from the Hungarian towns of Beremend and Bol by Croatian industrial aircraft. In order to protect the transport, the Hungarian Air Force had used its helicopters for electronic jamming, as set out in the memorandum.

It said Hungarian citizen Karoly Gale, owner of the firm Unirezum SD of Budapest, had on November 16 exported to Croatia from Poland (via Hungary) 200 pieces of RPG-7 bazookas, 2,500 bazooka mines, 2,000 Kalashnikovs, 2,000 grenades and 600,000 pieces of 7.62- caliber bullets.

The Yugoslav Government in the memorandum informed the UN Security Council that training camps for Croatian armed formations were being organized in Hungary and individuals and groups infiltrated in Yugoslavia for commando-terrorist operations.

Col. Keleti today rejected the allegations about training camps for Croatian fighters in Hungary and their being sent to operate in Yugoslavia.

The UN Security Council resolution, imposing an arms delivery embargo on Yugoslavia, took effect on September 25, 1991.

UN SFRY Observers Dispatch Welcomed

LD0901095192 Budapest MTI in English 0823 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] New York, January 9 (MTI)—The Hungarian UN delegation welcomed the resolution of the Security Council, under which 50 military observers are to be dispatched to Yugoslavia this week to ensure observance of the ceasefire.

The press statement notes this is the first step on the road leading to the deployment of peace-keeping forces. Hungary has from the very beginning taken a stand for the United Nations and the Security Council to assist the political resolution of the crisis and to end bloodshed in the country's southern neighbour.

"We are seeking peace, and a balanced, friendly relation with all individual southern Slavian republics. Hungary supports the Yugoslav peace conference and welcomes the fact that leaders of all six republics have indicated readiness to further participate in its work. We hope they shall make sincere efforts in order to bring about an atmosphere of confidence and patience among the various peoples and minorities of Yugoslavia, including the Hungarians in Vojvodina."

The Republic of Hungary has not, and does not, intend to become involved in the Yugoslavian conflict, but will share in the international efforts serving peace as a member of the Security Council. The deployment of peace-keeping forces in places where necessary and the respect for the original territorial and ethnic situation, the ensurance of human rights both for the majorities and the minorities all serve peace, the Hungarian position states.

Goncz, Libyan Minister Discuss Lockerbie Bombing

LD0901111692 Budapest MTI in English 1556 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Budapest, January 8 (MTI)—Libya's position on a terrorist bombing of a Pan-Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988, was the focus of talks between special envoy of Libyan leader Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi, Secretary for Economic Planning 'Umar al- Muntasir and Hungarian President Arpad Goncz here today.

The visit may be related to Hungary's becoming a non-permanent UN Security Council member for two years as from January this year, diplomatic sources said.

The council is likely to launch an investigation into the Lockerbie terrorist act in the near future. According to observers, Libya looks to soften a foreseeably harsh council resolution.

A Hungarian Foreign Ministry statement (issued 3 December 1991) condemns all forms of terrorism and any kind of state supporting it. A thorough investigation must be launched into the circumstances of all terrorist acts, the statement says.

Hungary feels it indispensable for all UN members, including Libya, to cooperate with American and British authorities in finding those responsible for the Lockerbie tragedy. Hungary urges that perpetrators be brought to an impartial court, according to international law and the international public's expectations.

Focuses on Security Council Membership

LD0901112792 Budapest MTI in English 2013 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Budapest, January 8 (MTI)—A Libyan top offical confirmed his visit here was related to Hungary becoming a member of the U.N. Security Council after speaking today with Hungarian President Arpad Goncz on Libya's position concerning the 1988 terrorist bombing of a Pan-Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Answering a question, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's special envoy and Secretary for Economic Planning 'Umar al-Muntasir, said his visit was both because of Hungary's new role as U.N. Security Council member and Libya's old friendship with Hungary.

Libya is an advocate of justice, is how the envoy summed up his country's position on the bombing.

In a press conference, 'Umar al-Muntasir said the chief aim of his visit was to inform Hungarian leaders about Libya's position on some international affairs.

The Libyan politician criticized the United States, Britain and France for connecting Libya with the bombing and pressed for exploring the whole truth by an independent court.

Since Libyan citizens are suspected, only a North African court can competently judge their case, he said. Nevertheless, Libya is prepared to receive British and French prosecutors in Tripoli.

'Umar al-Muntasir will travel on to Austria, Sweden and Finland.

Defense Spokesman Views Budget Allocations

AU0801081392 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 4 Jan 92 p 6

[Interview with Defense Ministry Spokesman Gyorgy Keleti by Peter Forro; place and date not given: "What Can 60.8 Billion Forints Cover in the Defense Ministry?"]

[Text] Compared to the originally proposed sum of 59,648 billion forints, the Hungarian Parliament allocated almost 60,796 billion forints to the Defense Ministry, so this ministry "came out well" from the budget debate. We asked Gyorgy Keleti about the way the Defense Ministry leaders evaluate their financial possibilities.

[Keleti] We submitted a request for 67 billion forints to the Finance Ministry for our 1992 budget. According to our calculations that also took inflation into consideration, this sum would be sufficient to maintain the current operational level of our national defense. During the coordination talks in the Finance Ministry, the sum of 60 billion emerged, and the same amount was discussed during the coordination talks at the government level.

[Forro] This is considerably less than your original request, but more than the original proposal....

[Keleti] We think that, after regrouping certain tasks, this sum will have to be sufficient to cover our basic tasks. At the same time, one has to be aware of the fact that the aforementioned sum already contains the funds necessary for the modernization of the electronic systems of about 15-20 MIG-21 figthers. The budget allocated 1.1 billion forints for this, and this sum cannot be used for anything else.

[Forro] Did the international military and political situation have a say in the fact that, contrary to the previous years, the National Assembly proved to be more tolerant toward the defense budget requirements this time? I am referring to the civil war in Yugoslavia and the sudden changes in Eastern Europe.

[Keleti] No doubt, our society is following the situation of the Hungarian Army with greater attention now, but this is only one side of the coin. It is also important that the deputies be aware of the situation of the Hungarian Army.

[Forro] Have you already decided on how to use the allocated funds?

[Keleti] Naturally, we have concrete ideas, like increasing the salary of our professional staff and civil employees by 10 percent, increasing the conscripts' monthly pay and the quality of their food supply. However, a 1-percent increase in social security contributions has a negative effect on our ministry, because this means a total of 250 million forints annual expenses.

1988 Antall Letter Published; Socialists Object

LD0801194692 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1700 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] The Hungarian Socialist Party [HSP] considers the disclosure of a letter written by Jozsef Antall to Karoly Grosz in 1988 as a provocation not only against the person of the prime minister but also against the HSP.

The letter was published today by several dailies after an unknown person had sent a copy to the press. The HSP deeply condemns the misuse of old documents in any form. The statement emphasizes that neither the party nor its institute of political history have any knowledge of the letter.

NEPSZAVA published details of a letter written by Jozsef Antall to Karoly Grosz in 1988, which was sent to every daily last night.

The prime minister wrote at the time that it was easy to paint a negative picture about the circles indicated as opposition, but the opposition was always a mirror image of those in power. Apart from this, he considered that it was not possible to get out of difficulties with a

depressed country and people, and that public safety and the credibility of the government and of politics in general was needed.

Customs Regulations Aimed at Illegal Imports

AU0701124292 Budapest MTI in English 1551 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Budapest, 3 January (MTI)—Hungary has tightened its customs regulations through drastic new rules introduced on 1 January designed to stem the flow of illegal imports.

The new customs tariffs on imports through tourist channels is a straight 15 percent on any item under the value of 5,000 forints with the exception of spirits, tobacco products and coffee, which will be charged higher rates.

Tourists will be allowed to import one litre of spirits at 90- percent duty, 3 litres of wine at 70 percent, 5 litres of beer at 30 percent, 500 cigarettes, 100 cigars, or 500 grams of tobacco at between 75 and 90 percent, and one kilo of coffee, tea, and cocoa at 50-percent duty. These quantities correspond to half the previous upper limits.

In addition, 25-percent VAT and consumer tax will be imposed on goods imported by tourists.

No change was made in customs regulations affecting imports of cars. Duty on imported cars varies between 13 and 78 percent depending on the age and engine volume of the car.

There was no change either in the 25-percent VAT tariff, but the base of customs duty imposition has altered. While the duty on cars imported by tourists was previously calculated on the basis of the Swiss Schwacke catalogue, from 1 January the duty will be imposed according to the purchase price testified by a receipt, providing the price is not 25-30 percent lower than the average export price in the country of origin.

By 30 November 1991, a total of 12,720 cars had been imported to Hungary through private channels, bringing in 581.7 million forints of duty to the Customs and Excise Office.

Imre Boross Interviewed on General Assembly

AU0801080392 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 4 Jan 92 p 4

[Interview with Imre Boross, general secretary of the National Smallholders' Party, in Szeged on 5 January: "National Smallholders' Party Already Preparing for Elections"]

[Text] The National Smallholders' Party [NKgP] held its general assembly in Szeged on 5 January. Imre Boross granted us an interview.

[NEPSZABADSAG] What topics are you dealing with at your general assembly?

[Boross] I think that the most important thing is for our party to rehabilitate Dezso Sulyok, the Smallholders' Party's most talented post-war politician. He was the first person to call upon the Hungarian leadership of the time to prepare for the conclusion of peace. Distancing himself from all forms of extremism, he condemned the law that was to enable the conducting of show trials. His work "The Hungarian Nation's Tragedy" [A Magyar Nemzet Tragediaja] will appear in the second half of 1992, and it will cause quite a sensation in some circles because it shows that the behavior of the Smallholders' Party leadership of the time largely contributed to Hungary's bolshevization. Perhaps that is why some politicians from today's Independent Smallholders' Party [FKgP] treat Dezso Sulyok's rehabilitation with a certain sense of guilt.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Perhaps the work will cause a surprise because of the historical similarities?

[Boross] Yes, because Sulyok shows the kind of consequences that can arise when one politicizes in an exploited and unprincipled coalition. Our General Assembly is asking the FKgP to rehabilitate Dezso Sulyok and his fellow politicians, who were excluded along with him.

[NEPSZABADSAG] It seems that efforts to reunite the NKgP and the FKgP have come to a standstill.

[Boross] We are at a stage of anticipation. We are waiting for the point in time where, as a result of the purification process that is taking place in the FKgP, we will be able to unite; however, the NKgP could also be the one to come into the limelight. In any case, we think in terms of a single Smallholders' Party.

[NEPSZABADSAG] However, at the moment there seem to be three smallholders' parties in operation [reference to the division in the FKgP].

[Boross] I do not wish to interfere in their squabbles. At the most, I can sadly smile about the fact that the man who is protesting his exclusion now acted in the same way two years ago.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Who are you referring to?

[Boross] Istvan Prepeliczay.

[NEPSZABADSAG] What do you expect from your own party in the future?

[Boross] Hungarian political life is gelatinous and opaque in its entirety. There is no striking opposition, and the government's policy is heading toward a one-party system. As one of the Opposition Roundtable's founding members, I did not expect this. That is why I think that a new party can be expected to appear on the scene for the 1994 elections.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Perhaps you are thinking of the NKgP?

[Boross] Nothing can be excluded.

Oil Imports Decline in 1991 Reported

LD0901050692 Budapest MTI in English 1804 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Budapest, January 8 (MTI-ECONEWS)—Hungary's crude oil imports in 1991 were 1 million tonnes down on the 1990 figure, Bela Sebestyen, deputy general director of Hungarian Oil and Gas (MOL) Co. said in reply to an ECONEWS query today.

The main reason for the decline was that petrol consumption in Hungary saw a substantial drop last year and, owing to a fallback in industrial production, large consumers used less energy.

A total of 5.36 million tonnes of oil were imported to Hungary in 1991, 16 per cent less than the 1990 figure of 6.42 million tonnes.

In 1991, Hungary imported 3.35 million tonnes of oil via the friendship pipeline, considerably less than the 5.03 million tonnes in 1990. In earlier years, 6.3-6.4 million tonnes of oil used to come to Hungary from the Soviet Union.

The remainder of Hungary's oil imports arrived through the Adria pipeline: 1.39 million tonnes in 1990, and 2.01 million tonnes in 1991, though one consignment got stuck in the Yugoslavian port of Omisalj in 1991 when the Yugoslavians closed the pipeline.

While the country's oil imports dropped by 16 per cent in 1991, the quantity of oil processed here dropped by only 6.5 per cent: from 7.8 million to 7.3 million tonnes. The difference resulted from domestic production and changes in reserves.

MOL—or, rather, its predecessor the OKGT—sold 1.5 million tonnes of petrol on the domestic market last year, 12 per cent down on 1990 (1.7 million tonnes).

There was an even more significant fall (22 per cent) in diesel oil and heating oil sales: Last year MOL (the OKGT as it then was) sold 2.4 million tonnes of these commodities, down on the 1990 figure of 3.1 million tonnes.

As to oil purchases this year, all MOL has disclosed is that preparations are underway for concluding contracts, though the uncertainties surrounding the future of the Adria pipeline make thinking ahead more difficult.

Nevertheless, the country's oil supply is ensured for the first quarter of this year by fuel coming in via the friendship pipeline.

Walesa Urges Labor Minister To Help Pensioners

LD0701192192 Warsaw PAP in English 1640 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 7—Following last Monday's [6 January] apology offered to pensioners by President Lech Walesa for the previous government's failure to keep its word concerning the valorization of old-age pensions, the president wrote a letter to new Labour Minister Jerzy Kropiwnicki on Tuesday [7 January] over the same issue, the president's press office said.

President Lech Walesa informs Minister Kropiwnicki about his apology and writes he hopes the government's word will be kept this time. He also recalls the course of work on a respective legislation including his meeting with former Labour Minister Michal Boni last November, at which the ministry agreed to amend the bill against which many protests had been staged.

"I expect good and fruitful cooperation with your ministry," writes the president adding that the obligation to keep promises and decisions is transferred from predecessors to successors in power. "This is not the question of goodwill but a must dictated by the serving role of the authorities," the president writes.

Olszewski Signs Authority for Increased Pensions

LD0801222592 Warsaw PAP in English 2044 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 8—Prime Minister Jan Olszewski signed an ordinance authorising payment of additional sums to some old age and disability pensions on Wednesday [8 January], according to the Government Press Office.

The upward adjustment of the pensions does not exceed 1 m [as received] zloties (90 dollars) monthly. The payments come into force retrospectively from January 1 1992.

The ordinance is the result of president's intervention into the pension law passed by parliament last October.

Walesa Receives, Thanks Former Defense Minister

LD0801053492 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1800 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Telephone report by presidential spokesman Andrzej Drzycimski]

[Text] President Lech Walesa today invited to Belweder Palace Vice Admiral Piotr Kolodziejczyk. During the conversation the chief of the armed forces thanked the former minister of defense for his cooperation and thanked him for the preparation of the ministry for takeover by a civilian successor.

After the official conversation, the two discussed the situation in the Ministry of Defense and in the armed forces during the implementation of the profound reform of moving the ministry to the civilian sector. The president appreciated the admiral's professionalism as an organizer, commander, and soldier devoted to his service to the Republic of Poland. He also confirmed his intention to use Admiral Kolodziejczyk based on his Army qualifications.

At the end of the very cordial conversation the president gave the admiral a letter in which he pointed out that he was the head of the ministry during the two last cabinets, which were the first in the Republic of Poland, where he was recognized as an honest supporter of the necessary reforms in the Army. He is also a man who solidly performed his duties, is disciplined, and demanded the best from his subordinates and himself.

The president expressed hope that the admiral's service for Poland's prosperity will continue and that there will be a place for the admiral to share his experience and knowledge in building the free republic.

Kolodziejczyk Made To Retire From Military

AU0701213692 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 3 Jan 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "A Shot Fired at the Admiral or at the President?"]

[Text] On 31 December, former Defense Minister Rear Admiral Kolodziejczyk was unexpectedly retired by the new head of the Defense Ministry, Jan Parys. The report that we carried yesterday stating that the decision was not made in consultation with the president, who is the constitutional head of the Armed Forces, has been confirmed. Lech Walesa first learned about everything from the evening television newscast.

The former defense minister intends to lodge an appeal with the ombudsman because, as a deputy in the previous Sejm, he has a right to retain his former employment and pay for a period of two years following the end of the Sejm's term of office. In addition, the legal obligation to give a professional soldier six months' notice of his transferal to the reserve was not observed.

The presidential spokesman, Andrzej Drzycimski, told GAZETA WYBORCZA on 1 January that the president will not comment on Minister Parys' decision until he has personally spoken to the present and former heads of the Ministry of National Defense. Drzycimski confirmed that after hearing the news on the evening television newscast, Walesa telephoned the admiral on Tuesday [31 December] evening. During the conversation, the president gave Kolodziejczyk assurances that use had to be made of his knowledge and experience.

On Thursday [2 January], Jerzy Milewski, who holds the post of minister of state with responsibility for national defense in the Presidential Chancellery, said that Kolodziejczyk is still the president's candidate for the newly created post of inspector general of the Armed

Forces. The plan for the reform of the Armed Forces prepared by the previous government envisages such a post. Milewski also said that the defense minister's decision was not coordinated with the National Defense Council. "We are all surprised by what we heard. I would not like to comment on the decision. What I can say about Minister Kolodziejczyk is that we cooperated well. The impression that he made on me was that of soldier who knows his job," is what Janusz Onyszkiewicz, the deputy minister of national defense, told us on Thursday.

Krzysztof Zabinski, head of the Office of the Council of Minister in the Bielecki government and head of the Interdepartmental Commission for the Reform of the Military, said that the news of Kolodziejczyk's dismissal came as a complete surprise to him. "At meetings of the National Defense Committee it was always said that Kolodziejczyk would be made inspector general of the Armed Forces. We believe that it would stabilize the situation in the military," said Zabinski.

New Defense Minister Parys Discusses Appointment

AU0801172292 Warsaw POLSKA ZBROJNA in Polish 2 Jan 92 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Polish Defense Minister Jan Parys by Janusz Grochowski; place and date not given: "No Cheap Promises"]

[Excerpts] [Grochowski] Many politicians were seeking to be appointed to the post of minister of national defense. It was a subject that, at times, even saw fierce disputes and arguments as well as speculation on the part of the press, but your name did not crop up even once. Nevertheless, you have been appointed to head the Defense Ministry.

[Parys] It is true that I was not in the running for the office. I know that there were several candidates who were preparing themselves for assuming the post, and perhaps it was very difficult to choose one of them, precisely because they were making such intensive efforts. In the light of this, Prime Minister Olszewski probably had no other option but to choose someone from outside the various rival political groupings. He chose me, because I was fairly neutral and not affiliated to a particular party.

[Grochowski] Apparently, he offered you the post almost at the very last moment, on the eve of his opening speech to parliament and of proposing his cabinet ministers. What made you decide to accept the offer?

[Parys] There were two things: The knowledge that we need the Army very much at the present time and that much can be done and has to be done for the Army and confidence in Mr. Jan Olszewski, whom I have known for a long time. I think that people who are are taking on difficult tasks simply have to be helped. I was at his disposal when he was a lawyer and a citizens committee activist, and I am now prepared to assume any position when Prime Minister Olszewski believes that I am needed. [passage omitted]

[Grochowski] I understand that you are in favor of seeking guarantees for our national security in ties with NATO?

[Parys] I believe that we should be prepared for the worst possible eventuality, that is, that we would find ourselves alone in the face of danger. I will be making suggestions along those lines to the head of the General Staff. At the same time, I would not conceal the fact that I am counting on the emergence of a European security system with the Western system as its nucleus, because, quite simply, there is no other formation on our continent at the present time.

[Grochowski] Until recently, you led the negotiations on the question of financial settlements pertaining to the stationing of Soviet forces on Polish territory. What has been achieved?

[Parys] Progress on this question really has been very slight. The two sides are continually putting forward claims and compromise proposals that are then rejected. The appropriate political decisions are probably lacking. Perhaps the Russian authorities, which have taken over responsibility for the negotiations, will display a more constructive approach. [passage omitted]

Parys Comments on Positive, Negative Phenomena

LD0801223192 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1800 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] The advisory team of the Ministry of National Defense [MON] held a meeting today under the chairmanship of the new minister of defense. Konrad Paradowski talks to Jan Parys, the new head of the ministry.

[Begin Parys recording] Today's team helped me to get to know all the most important people under me. I had an opportunity to become familiar with the threats to our country.

There are positive and negative phenomena. The negative are: the redeployment of some units to the east of our border, on our eastern border. As the result of this, the number of foreign armies east of Poland is increasing. It is connected with the process of creating the republics' armies and with the redeployment of the Soviet Army units. This is the matter which, at the moment, will have my full attention.

As far as the positive matters are concerned, we are expecting, in the next few days, the visit by the Ukrainian minister of defense, General Morozov. We hope to exchange some political views as well as cooperation. We will also be able to host in Poland the U.S. Air Force chief, during the second half of January and this visit should help our Air Force and our Air Defense Force.

The most serious internal problem is money. The Ministry of Finance is 569 billion zloty in arrears with payments for the last year to the MON budget which makes it very difficult for us to regulate current payments. [end recording]

Spokesman Evades Question on Special Powers

LD0801231192 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 2100 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Government spokesman Marcin Gugulski today evaded answering a question whether Prime Minister Olszewski's government would ask the Sejm for special powers allowing the issue of decrees with the force of law. Asked to comment on the statement by Senator Zygmunt Hortmanowicz, who had said that the government would soon request decrees, the spokesman stated that the previous government had already asked to be granted the right to issue decrees with the force of law and that was not the only legislative initiative in this direction.

Government spokesman Marcin Gugulski was also asked to comment on the conflict surrounding the decision by Minister Kropiwnicki and Senator Celinski's accusations. He said that the motives for personnel transfers made in the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy had been given in public statements by Minister Kropiwnicki. These motives are in accordance with the principle by which we intend to be guided—a break with the communist tradition of ostentatious [fasadowe] alliances and coalitions. Prime Minister Olszewski made the appropriate decision on the recommendation of the minister, the spokesman explained. We remind you that the case in point here is the dismissal of Deputy Minister Joanna Starega-Piasek of the Democratic Union, which was described by Minister Kropiwnicki as natural, since she politically represented the opposition party.

Council of Ministers Discusses Corruption Law

LD0801070192 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1700 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] The Council of Ministers is analyzing the 10 Sejm resolutions that have not been implemented by Jan Krzysztof Bielecki's cabinet. The government has familiarized itself with the drafts of the laws prepared by the previous government and not passed by parliament. The government considered the extension of the authority of the Economic Committee of the Council of Ministers, particularly in connection with elaborating the principles of the socioeconomic policy and budget law. It also viewed the stand in connection with the amendments to the banking law passed by the parliament and vetoed by the president. The Council of Ministers will discuss the draft law on limiting the economic activities of those people holding high positions in the state, including deputies and senators.

Vice Minister's Dismissal Called 'Political Act'

LD0701193592 Warsaw PAP in English 1732 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 7—Leader of the Democratic Union (UD) Tadeusz Mazowiecki told PAP after the dismissal of Joanna Starega-Piasek from the post of vice-minister of labour that "the UD must view the dismissal as a political act towards it and this is bound to influence the UD's attitude towards the government."

Mazowiecki said that "he is surprised by Minister Kropiwnicki's decision to dismiss Vice-Minister Starega-Piasek." He added that "the minister has the right to choose his aides and that nobody is going to question this but that Minister Kropiwnicki gives only political reasons to substantiate the dismissal of Vice-Minister Starega-Piasek."

Mazowiecki stressed that "the relation of this decision to Prime Minister Olszewski's statement on readiness to cooperate with the UD remains the secret of the government: it concerns at least its cohesion."

Ministry Accepts Resignation of Police Chief

LD0901051592 Warsaw PAP in English 2110 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 8—The chief of police, Roman Hula, who had resigned on Tuesday [7 January], had his resignation accepted after his report had been presented to the advisory committee of the Interior Ministry (MSW) on Wednesday [8 January], according to Wojciech Wroblewski, the MSW press spokesman.

The committee also expressed concern over the insufficient funds allocated for state securty in the budget for the first quarter of this year.

On the proposal of the minister of the interior, Prime Minister Jan Olszewski appointed a seventh committee member, Przemyslaw Hniedziewicz, an MP [member of parliament] and member of the Centre Alliance (PC).

Tribunal: Law Conflicts With International Rules

LD0801052892 Warsaw PAP in English 2207 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 7—The constitutional tribunal declared Tuesday [7 January] that one of the provisions of the Polish law on border guards is incompatible with the Polish Constitution and the international covenants of civic and political rights.

The controversial provision of the law of October 12, 1990, deprives border guards of the right to prosecute their claims connected with their service in a court.

Both the Polish Constitution and the covenants guarantee equal right to prosecute one's claims in a court to everyone.

The case was brought to the tribunal by the president of the Supreme Administrative Court and the Ombudsman, and the verdict was passed by a bench of 11 judges.

It is for the first time that the constitutional tribunal declared incompatibility of a Polish legal provision not only with the Constitution, but also with the international law.

Solidarity Commission To Stage Warning Strike

LD0801193292 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1900 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Solidarity's National Commission, meeting in Gdansk, has taken the decision to stage a nationwide warning strike from 1200 to 1400 on 13 January. This will be the Solidarity trade unionists' protest against the way the price increases for electricity, gas, hot water and domestic central heating were introduced.

Minister of Labor Jerzy Kropiwnicki, who attended the meeting today, declared that it is impossible to withdraw these price increases. He added that, in the face of mass social resistance, the government would have to resign, because, he stressed, he cannot allow the possibility of using force against workers.

Protests Continue Over Energy Price Increases

LD0901051192 Warsaw PAP in English 2238 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 8—Wednesday [8 January] was another day of protests staged by trade unions in various parts of Poland following the recent energy price rises.

Still before the Solidarity National Commission decided to call for a nationwide warning strike on January 13, a one-hour warning strike was staged Wednesday in the Gdansk coastal region on the call of the local Solidarity leadership. Only municipal transport, health service and schools worked as usual.

In an "appeal to society" the All-Poland Alliance of Trade Unions (OPZZ) called on "all political and union forces" to join efforts "in defence of living standards and civic and workers' rights."

The OPZZ, which declared to stage a nationwide protest action, including a warning strike, on January 16, wants to make the government abolish the rises and start negotiations with unionists on any planned price rises.

The Central Executive Committee of the Social-Democracy of the Republic of Poland (SDRP) declared its solidarity with "those whom the rises hit the hardest" and called on the government to think over the decision on the hikes, their scale and the principles of compensations.

Meanwhile, seven workers of the light industry plants in the central city of Lodz went on a hunger strike Wednesday to force the government to undertake concrete steps to check the catastrophe in this industrial branch.

The sit-in strike continues in the Aviation Equipment Works (PZL) in Rzeszow, southeast Poland, and the striking workers do not rule out a general strike of all enterprises of the aviation industry in Poland.

Graduates Exempted From Military Training

LD0901050992 Warsaw PAP in English 1925 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 8—National Defence Minister Jan Parys has decided that university graduates will not be trained at reserve cadet schools starting this year, ministry spokesman Ireneusz Czyzewski said on Wednesday [8 January].

The decision that funds saved on graduates training will be used for training and upkeeping regular troops was made at a meeting of the ministerial advisory team including vice ministers and members.

The team also reviewed questions of the state security in the context of changing international situation, including the growth of military potential and infrastructure behind Poland's eastern border, reads a communique issued by the ministry.

The ministry also said that the Ukrainian defence minister and the U.S. secretary of air defence are going to visit Poland. Polish chief of the general staff will make a visit to Paris.

Plans in Progress for British Military Cooperation

LD0901051792 Warsaw PAP in English 2005 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 8—Possibilities for Polish-British cooperation in officer training, scientific research connected with defence and the colaboration of military industries between Poland and Britain were discussed Wednesday by the Defence Minister Jan Parys and the Ambassador of Great Britain, Michael J. Smith.

Ambassador Smith conveyed to Minister Parys a congratulatory letter from the Secretary of State for Defence in British Government, Tom King, on the occasion of Parys' appointment to the post of Poland's defence minister.

Stolojan Optimistic About 1992 Reform Progress

AU0801124892 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1103 GMT 8 Jan 92

["Theodor Stolojan: The Cardinal Target of 1992"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 8/1/1992—"I am optimistic about the year we have started" states Romanian Prime Minister Theodor Stolojan in an interview with weekly ECONOMISTUL. He said that "for us the problem now is to see where is the reform lagging behind, where has it not duely progressed. I am optimistic because, starting from this understanding of the facts, it is clear that any party that will win the general elections has only one chance, namely to boost the economic reform and attain its targets. The political party or the coalition of political parties that will have the majority in the parliament will be judged by its capability to attain the targets. I am therefore optimistic, for, in fact, we cannot afford to lose time."

Prime Minister Stolojan opines that the target of 1992 should be the stabilization of production, of prices, and, based on it, the stabilization of the living standard as well. The structural reform, the prime minister thinks, does not mean only the completion of privatization but also its continuation, the settlement of the relations between enterprises with state capital and owners.

The problem now, the prime minister says, is not to dismantle the industry, but to restructure it. "We are starting from an advantage of the Romanian economy, the natural resources, and the industries that do not have them, such as siderurgy or petrochemistry, that have to import most of their raw materials and do not manage to attain competitive parameters in a given lapse of time, are doomed", says he.

Referring to the branches eligible for investments, Prime Minister Stolojan says that priority should be given to energy, with investments mainly channeled to the completion of the building of the Cernavoda nuclear power plant that will start operation in 1994. Steps will have to be taken for investments in transport, railways in particular.

As for agriculture, the Romanian prime minister showed that in this domain the country is faced with a big issue—the cereal stock for the bread of the towns and cities. He opines that this "macro-problem" of Romania was created by communism.

Stressing the necessity to protect the rate of the national currency, the leu, Stolojan shows that it can be done in two main ways: by fighting inflation in every way and mobilizing various sources of foreign financing to make up for the deficit of the balance of payments and by encouraging the export that generates foreign currency takings.

Stolojan, Others Meet Trade Union Leaders

AU0801171092 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1609 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 8/1/1991—Wednesday, 8 January, the Government-Trade Unions Joint Commission resumed its proceedings at government headquarters, in the presence of Prime Minister Theodor Stolojan, Labour and Welfare Minister Dan Mircea Popescu, Education and Science Minister Mihai Golu, Health Minister Mircea Maiorescu, government representative Mihu Miron Biji for the relations with the trade unions and the Employers' Union, Secretary of State Aurel Berea of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, counselors, experts. The unions were represented by leaders of the Hercules, Cosin, Fides, Metal, Construct, Ceres, Consenerg confederations and by members of the "15 Noiembrie" ["15 November"] Alliance.

The sides examined the new wage system for 1992 and indexation measures for the first four months of 1992.

Showing that the current government had tasks limited in time, the prime minister pointed out that the executive had set itself to administer the economy so that the reform might be continued. In that respect, he highlighted the need for a production whose level should provide for the stability of prices, of the exchange rate of the national currency and, implicitly, of the population's real incomes. Mr. Stolojan said that from a political point of view the main targets of the government were the organization of local and general election, with Romania needing an effective political stability resulting from the real wish of the people.

Government sources made it known that talks would continue tomorrow, Thursday, 9 January.

Senate, Deputies' Assembly Resume Session

AU0801211292 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2000 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 8/1/1992—Romania's Senate met Wednesday, 8 January, in the first extraordinary public sitting of its fifth session since the legislative elections of 20 May 1990.

The Senate adopted, after brief rationales, two documents: The law for the modification of the "1990 Protocol" regarding the amendment of the Convention on International Rail Transport, and the law covering the set-up of the Agency for Multilateral Guarantee of Investment.

In view of eliminating from Romania's legislation normative acts and regulations cases of the former regime, anachronical at present, Romania's Senate debated and approved in its Wednesday, 8 January meeting, a bill for abrogating laws and decrees issued by the communist regime, on the planned economic development of Romania, the organisation of socialist economic units, the workers' self-administration and management, other

aspects of Romania's economic, social and military life. Twenty-four laws and decrees were repealed, issued between 1965 and 1988.

Wednesday, 8 January, the Assembly of Deputies resumed works, by holding an extraordinary session.

With a majority of votes, the agenda was adopted for the current week, including several bills, on which debates started at the end of last year, such as the bills on financing local elections, on the organisation and functioning of the Romanian Intelligence Service, on the financial covering of the obligations of the Romanian state not regulated until 31 December 1991, on paid leaves, on other kinds of leaves, on the regime of seaports and free zones, on the financing, organisation and functioning of the public guards corps and the creation of the "Danube Delta" reserve.

The lower chamber will also debate bills on the ratification of agreements concluded by the Romanian and Chinese Governments.

Roman, Other Politicians Campaign Via Radio

AU0801171792 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1446 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 8/1/1991—The leaders of the political parties in Romania continue—without disputes or incidents so far—the campaign for the local elections of February 9.

Petre Roman, national leader of the National Salvation Front [FSN], presented on Radio Bucharest his party's platform as regards the administration of towns and villages, communes, etc. According to him, the forthcoming local elections are "a decisive step toward democracy. The urban and rural communities, either big or small, should have equal development prospects. The historical provinces should reunite. "It is a signal," Roman added, "for the Romanians everywhere, for our brothers across the Prut first of all." He urged the country's citizens to vote for the FSN candidates, "a guarantee for a fast, concrete change of the quality of administration, for replacing the bureaucracy of central power with the elected representatives of the citizens, responsible to the electorate." Presenting the basic orientations of an FSN local administration, Roman pointed to his country's preoccupation for the efficient employment of the localities' own resources to the end of raising the inhabitants' welfare, of improving the medical care, education, encouraging culture, the arts, science. He laid special stress on fighting corruption "the evil that eats confidence and competence... causes social disbalances and human degrading."

Radu Ceontea, chairman of the Romanian National Unity Party [PUNR], said on radio that finally, after half a century, the Romanian people was given the freedom to choose its administrators for territorial communities. "We will have to learn democracy while Romania lives through a general crisis which has however not extended to the political parties" he said. "It would perfect to have in Romania as many sorts of bread as there are of parties" Radu Ceontea opined. He mentioned that his party rejected the idea of alliances. "We think we should be allied only with our voters, should associate only with our supporters. We are a centre party, suspected by either side: The FSN has considered us to be on the opposition, the opposition has considered us to be on the Front. This makes us be more on our guard than others are."

Radu Vasile, spokesman of the Christian Democratic National Peasant Party, cautioned about the obtaining elements belonging to the past, with old mentalities, in most of the structures of local administration. Urging the electors to vote for the candidates of the Democratic Convention (which includes his party), Vasile Radu stressed that the Convention's basic orientation was the promotion to offices of mayors and councillors of persons that are not necessarily part of the convention but are honest, good administrators, ready to really dedicate themselves to the local administration, to citizens.

Present at the radio stations' electoral programs was also Wolfgang Auner, director of the "Flaro" enterprise of Sibiu, who runs, in behalf of the German Democratic Forum, for the Sibiu County administration. Among his targets, Auner mentioned the revigoration of the county's economic activity in the absence of which the local people's living standard could not be improved, as well as the encouragement of the economic contacts with foreign countries. "If everything goes normal," Auner stressed, "the revigoration of the county's economic activity will have wholesome effects on the stabilization of the German ethnics, as most of them emigrate only for economic reasons.

He also pursued the encouragement of foreign investors who kept relations with citizens of German origin in the county.

Nicolae Raducanu, promoter of the Bucharest Romany Society (which is included in the Romany Alliance), who runs for the post of councillor with the Bucharest sector one mayor's office, said on Radio Bucharest that one of his major targets was to take steps to change the Romanies' life, meaning their integration in society. "We must help them, guide them to find jobs, do a decent work and send their children to school," which, he opined, was a guarantee of integration of the future generation of Romanies in society.

Mircea Vaida Voevod, secretary of state with the local Public Administration Department, reported on TV that the central technical commission for the preparation and holding of the local elections and the Central Electoral Commission, went through all problems of territorial units that need a settlement, and was optimistic about the possibility to secure every material requisite for the February 9 polling.

In the January 7 teleconference numerous questions were posed from counties, many issues were settled regarding the registration and tokens of the parties, the nominations, etc. Among the questions settled then was the possibility that students travel free of charge to their residence localities in order to cast their votes.

It was recalled that the electoral rolls should be posted in public places until January 8, 1992 and the nominations should be registered by January 9 (30 days before elections).

Ecologist Groups To Run on Joint Lists

AU0801171492 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1550 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 8/1/1992—Toma George Maiorescu, chairman of the Ecologist Movement of Romania—MER, told a ROMPRES reporter that MER would take part in the 9 February local elections on joint rolls with the National Ecologist Party, the Democratic Ecologist Party and the Humanitarian Ecologist Party, their badge being the evergreen fir tree, enjoying the support of the organisation of the Romanian Ecologist Youth. Mr. Maiorescu mentioned that the representatives of the aforesaid parties had taken the decision to have joint rolls in a number of localities, in spite of the refusal of Bucharest leaders of the Romanian Ecologist Party, that makes part of the Democratic Convention. "I hope that this experience in local elections, will bring about a strong unity of all ecologists in Romania, in view of the nearing general elections," added Mr. Maiorescu.

Speaking about the activity of the Ecologist Movement during the two years since its formation, Toma George Maiorescu mentioned that the 96 MER branches had tallied the pollution sources of their zones and drawn up Romania's ecologic map, contributing to the creation of a strongly militant ecologic conscience. "More than 1 million people say today they are members or followers of ecologism, which means hope and guarantee for the future," he said.

National Committee of Enterprises Set Up

AU0801125292 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1032 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 8/1/1992—The National Agency for Privatization and Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises informs about the setting up of a National Committee of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in Romania, a nongovernmental organization to which both natural persons—authorized to carry on lucrative activities—and juristic persons can adhere. The committee is an apolitical and autonomous organization not subordinated to any institution, which finances itself, but with no restrictions as to the political allegiance of its members.

The National Committee of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises can set up territorial branches and affiliate to and cooperate with any institution from this country or from abroad.

Government on Energy Supply, Moldovan Exchanges

AU0801211492 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2002 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 8/1/1992—The government of Romania met, Wednesday, 8 January, at noon, under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Theodor Stolojan to discuss the situation of the supply of electricity to corporate and individual consumers and to examine how the provisions of the agreement on commercial exchanges between the Governments of Romania and the Republic of Moldova are being made effective.

The sitting will also hear a report by the state secretariat for the problems of the victims of the December 1989 revolution on its activities so far.

The executive is also to analyse a number of draft resolutions to be submitted to parliament.

Approaching the major item on the agenda, the government made its routine analysis of Romania's energy reserves and found that the planned crude and natural gas production for December was met almost 100 per cent, while coal output for power generation made up for only 81.1 per cent of the scheduled figures. The prime minister warned against the high costs for energy resources during December 1991 (124,000,000 dollars which do not include natural gas). He pointed out the obligation of corporate consumers to pay for the electricity consumed so as to balance the need for convertible currency apt to keep up the economic circuit.

Further on, the executive was informed in connection with the progress made in the application of the Romanian-Moldovan agreement for commercial exchanges. The competent ministers named a number of projects underway and quoted the proposal of the Romanian side for the institution of a free trade zone between Romania and the Republic of Moldova, apt to encourage cooperation and speed up economic integration. To render Romania's actions coherent in its relations with Moldova and to ensure the stability of the bilateral relations, the prime minister resolved the establishment of an inter-ministerial structure to cover for the relations with Moldova.

The government also examined the report of the state undersecretariat for the problems of the victims of the December 1989 revolution, on its activities since foundation, as well as issues raised by some associations lately.

Other draft laws examined in the today's government sitting were the education act, the bill on the special fund

raised from the selling of flats built from the state budget and the bill on the audio-visual media tax.

The minister of justice informed the government that the draft law on illicitly acquired wealth, adapted to the new transition conditions, was about to be completed. He showed that only 187 of the present 40,000 detainees were prosecuted for corruption, which proves the lack of legislative instruments to detect such cases. He also added that, upon the prime minister's request, he would have a meeting with representatives of public institutions, of political and social bodies to define the meaning of the syntagma "trial of communism" and identify the means by which such a trial could be initiated.

Former USSR Embassy To Represent Russia

AU0801185692 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1743 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 8/1/1992—Ambassador Traian Chebeleu, the spokesman for the Romanian Foreign Ministry, announced Wednesday, 8 January, that Romania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs had been asked by the relevant institution of the Russian Federation that the diplomatic representations of the former Soviet Union in Romania be considered diplomatic missions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

The Romanian Government, mentioned Mr. Chebeleu, took note that the Embassy of the Soviet Union in Bucharest and the general consulates of the Soviet Union at Constanta and Iasi would function as diplomatic and respectively consular representations of the Russian Federation in Romania.

Considering the context in which the opening of the Soviet Union Consulate at Iasi was agreed on, the Romanian party considers that for clarifying the situation, further negotiations are necessary between the interested sides, added Ambassador Traian Chebeleu.

Mr. Chebeleu equally announced that Romania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs had asked that the Romania's Embassy in Moscow be considered Romania's diplomatic representation in the Russian Federation.

Foreign Ministry Names CFE Delegation

AU0801211692 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2014 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 8/1/1992—The spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Traian Chebeleu, announced the participation of a Romanian delegation including Ambassador Marin Buhoara, director of the Foreign Ministry Department for Armament Control and Disarmament, and Colonel Ion Matis, National Defence Ministry expert, in a meeting on the application of the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe due in Brussels on January 10, this year.

Participating beside the 24 countries members of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council that had the initiative of such a meeting will also be Russia, Belorussia, the Ukraine, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Moldova, the last attending such a meeting for the first time through its representative Feodor Samoilenko, head of section in the State Department for Military Affairs in Chisinau.

Romania is to finalize its position regarding the statements made by some Yugoslav republics on the proclamation of state independence, in accordance with a unitary principle of international law and a bloc process, showed Wednesday the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Traian Chebeleu. Romania takes the European political course but not exclusively, also considering that its neighbourhood with the Yugoslav state entitles it to promote special interests as well, he specified.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman also made assessments of the Western attitude toward Yugoslavia, and reviewed Romania's ties with the neighbour countries, after the emergence of new states at the Romanian frontiers like the Republic of Moldova and the Ukraine.

International

Lord Carrington Meets Republic Presidents 9 Jan

LD0901151292 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1415 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Brussels, January 9 (TANJUG)—The president of the conference on Yugoslavia, Lord Carrington, held a working luncheon for the presidents of all six Yugoslav republics in the Egmont Palace in Brussels today.

The presidents of the Yugoslav republics came to Brussels at the invitation of Lord Carrington in an attempt to resume the conference on Yugoslavia, which was interrupted two months ago in The Hague. Sources in Brussels say that the participants in the conference held a number of meetings during the morning, while Lord Carrington had separate meetings with the presidents of certain Yugoslav republics.

The official opening of the plenary session was scheduled for 14:30 this afternoon.

EC Conference Ends; New Meeting Date Not Set

AU0901154792 Paris AFP in English 1529 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Brussels, Jan 9 (AFP) — The European Community-mediated peace conference on Yugoslavia ended here Thursday [9 January] after one hour and 20 minutes without setting a date for a new meeting, a source close to the conference said. The conference groups the presidents of Yugoslavia's six republics under the chairmanship of former British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington

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An EC spokesman had said earlier Thursday that prospects for peace were improving despite the shooting down of an EC observers' helicopter on Tuesday.

The conference, sponsored by the European Community (EC), was suspended by Lord Carrington on November 5 because Serbia and Montenegro rejected an EC peace plan and fighting continued to rage in Croatia.

"The idea is to set new guidelines (for the peace process) now that the situation is improving," the secretary of the conference, Tadeu Soares said, referring to the general success of the latest ceasefire which came into effect last Friday.

EC diplomats said the conference would try to "minimise" the shooting down of the helicopter by a Yugoslav federal warplane so as not to jeopardise the fragile peace process. "We don't want to make a major thing of it because the Serbs have shown good faith (in responding to the incident)," one diplomat said.

One French and four Italian observers were killed in the shooting, which has been blamed on right-wing Serbian elements within the federal military trying to derail the peace process.

18,000 Austrian Grenades Said Stored in Osijek

AU0801130892 Vienna Oesterreich Eins Radio Network in German 1100 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] In Osijek, in the middle of the Yugoslav war zone, 18,000 Austrian grenades are stored. They are relics from the Noricum affair [involving illegal export of war materiel to Iran]. All diplomatic efforts to get the grenades back have so far been unsuccessful. The owners, the Assmann Group, report that the appropriate launchers for these grenades are not available in Yugoslavia. A spokesman of the group stated, however, that it is not known what is being done or has already been done with the grenades.

The Assmann Group bought the Noricum machine factory in Liezen in February, 1991. Referring to this, a spokesman of the Assmann Group stressed that right from the beginning efforts have been made to get the grenades back to Austria. The relevant permits do exist. The former owner, Voest, bears the economic burden. However, since it involves a crisis area, it is intended to take the grenades back to Austria by all available means. The grenades were once worth a total of 300 million schillings. However, their value has decreased because of the length of storage, the spokesman of the Assmann Group stressed.

Lojze Peterle Meets With Austria's Vranitzky

WA0901111091

For reportage on the visit by Slovene President Lojze Peterle, including reports on his talks with Austrian Chancellor Dr. Franz Vranitzky, please see the AUSTRIA section of the 9 January West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Gligorov Meets UK Foreign Secretary Hurd

WA0901074391

For reportage on the visit by Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov to the United Kingdom, including reports on his talks with UK Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, please see the United Kingdom section of the 9 January West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Federal

Defense Secretary Resigns; Replaced by Adzic

LD0801185792 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1832 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Belgrade, 8 Jan (TANJUG)—At its session today, the SFRY Presidency considered the situation that has arisen following the announcement by Army General Veljko Kadijevic, sent to the SFRY Presidency and to the president of the SFRY Assembly, that owing to his deteriorating health, he is unable to perform the function of federal secretary for national defense.

Respecting the reasons cited, the SFRY Presidency states that, in keeping with the law on all-people's

defense, in his task of leading and commanding the SFRY Armed Forces, the federal secretary for national defense is being replaced by Colonel General Blagoje Adzic, chief of staff of the armed forces, who at the same time also performs the function of chief of staff of the Supreme Command of the SFRY Armed Forces.

'Deteriorating Health' Cited

LD0801184392 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1816 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Belgrade, 8 Jan (TANJUG)—The information department of the Federal Secretariat for National Defense this evening sent TANJUG a statement which says:

Today Army General Veljko Kadijevic, federal secretary for national defense, sent the following letter to the SFRY Presidency and to the president of the SFRY Assembly:

"At a meeting on 31 December 1991, I informed members of the SFRY Presidency that, because of my deteriorating state of health, I can no longer carry out the functions of federal secretary for national defense.

"With this letter today, I am making this decision official."

In keeping with the law on all-people's defense, the federal secretary for national defense is being replaced by Colonel General Blagoje Adzic, chief of staff of the armed forces, pending the appointment of a new federal secretary for national defense, the information department of the defense secretariat announces.

TANJUG Profiles Adzic

LD0801213192 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2027 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Belgrade, Jan 8 (TANJUG)—Colonel-General Blagoje Adzic, chief of the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) General Staff, who as of today is to act Yugoslav defence secretary, was born on September 2, 1932, in Pridvorica near Gacfo, in the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Adzic is a Serb by nationality.

Adzic, part of the post-war JNA Officer Corps, was educated at military academies in Yugoslavia and abroad. He served as commanding officer of a batallion, regiment, brigade, division and finally Army corps. He also served as chief of staff of an Army district and deputy chief of the JNA General Staff.

Adzic became JNA chief of General Staff on September 21, 1989, when he replaced Col. Gen. Stevan Mirkovic. He had earlier served as chief of staff of the Army district commanded by Col. Gen. Mirkovic who retired. The Yugoslav Presidency which is the supreme commander of the Yugoslav armed forces in a statement on the occasion of the appointment of Adzic said that "He is taking over the post of federal defence secretary in the affairs of managing and commanding the armed forces."

Defense Ministry Denies Alleged Putsch in Army

AU0901151892 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] During our newscast we received a statement from the Information Service of the Federal Secretariat for National Defense concerning the speculations about a military putsch in the Yugoslav People's Army.

The news carried in some domestic and foreign media—that in a telephone conversation with Cyrus Vance the deputy defense minister Admiral Stane Brovet said that there was allegedly an attempted military coup in the Yugoslav People's Army, that the attack on the helicopter of the EC observers mission was part of this action, and that, because of this, a purge was started in the Army—is completely arbitrary, untrue, and without foundation.

In that conversation, there was no mention of a military putsch whatsoever. We are talking about crude speculations aimed at inflicting harm on the Yugoslav People's Army and its genuine attempts to resolve the Yugoslav crisis in a peaceful and democratic way through the abuse of this undesired and tragic incident. This was stated in a communique from the Information Service of the Federal Secretariat for National Defense.

Raseta: Helicopter Incident Not Truce Violation

LD0901075492 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0730 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Army MiG flights and the discharging of missiles [raketiranje] at EC observer mission helicopters did not violate the Sarajevo cease-fire agreement, because the agreement does not ban the control of the airspace and only forbids firing on surface targets. Soon after midnight, after his meeting with representatives of the Republic of Croatia and the EC observer mission, this was stated in the Zagreb I Hotel by General Andrija Raseta, the official representative of the Yugoslav People's Army.

Asked to comment on this statement, General Imra Agotic, a member of the Croatian Army's General Staff, said that this is an absurd claim. The agreement stipulates a ban on all air force activity, and this implies all flights in Croatian air space, irrespective of the purpose of such flights.

Manolic Discusses Incident

AU0801220292 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 2000 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Walter Erdelitsch report with recorded statements by Josip Manolic, Croatian intelligence service chief—recorded, Manolic statements in Serbo-Croatian with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Erdelitsch] This evening a sensational personnel reshuffle was announced in Belgrade. Defense Minister Velko Kadijevic has resigned, allegedly for health reasons. Until a successor has been found, Colonel General Blagoje Adzic, the toughest of Belgrade's hardliners, will take over this post. The reshuffle in the leadership of the

federal army comes directly in the wake of yesterday's shooting down of an EC helicopter.

[Manolic] This incident is the result of both a lack of discipline in individuals and the trend of the war machinery. One cannot simply press a button to stop the war. We assume that, in the future too, such incidents will happen. The suspension of General Jurjevic does not hit the target. There are higher-ranking and more powerful officers who are responsible for a lack of discipline in the federal army. This happens, however, in every system that is collapsing.

[Erdelitsch] The man who says this is usually well-informed. Josip Manolic is the head of the Croatian intelligence service and has been a bitter opponent of Belgrade's military for two decades. Immediately after the war, however, he was one of them.

[Manolic] A great number of the members of the current government were members of the antifascist coalition, the partisans, during the war. Among them are Franjo Tudjman, the president of the republic, Stipe Mesic, and myself. We all were in the antifascist coalition.

The task of the intelligence service, of protecting the Constitution, is important during war. After the war, however, something called KOS [Counterintelligence Service] will remain—that is, the intelligence service of the federal army and the State Security Service UDBA [sentence as heard]. They will try to make the Croatian constitutional order fail in those areas that do not belong to Serbia and will not become part of Serbia. The KOS was also directed toward the outside. Thus, Austria, for instance, and some other states were not spared its attention.

Army Spokesman on Croatian Cease-Fire Violations

LD0901131492 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1201 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Sid, Jan 9 (TANJUG)—The fifteenth truce has so far given reason for hope that a more stable peace can be counted on, Lieutenant Colonel Aleksandar Mihailovic, spokesman for the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) command near Sid and president of the commission monitoring the truce, said at today's news conference.

The spokesman for the Army unit covering part of the battlezone between the Rivers Danube and Sava said the Croatian side had violated the 15th truce eight times "by opening fire with mortars and artillery on the villages of Ceric and Mirkovci." The JNA, territorial defence and volunteer units did not fire back on any of the eight occasions, Col Mihailovic stressed.

He said that in the period between the 14th and 15th truces, in that region alone, the Croatian secessionist armed formations had violated the cease-fire exactly 160 times, a daily average of between four and five times.

Opposition Parties Criticize Belgrade Convention

AU0801174892 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Representatives of the National Front of Yugoslavia, the Party of Yugoslavia, and the Youth Alliance of Yugoslavia have held a news conference in the International Press Center. It was prompted by the participants' desire to explain why they did not sign the convention on Yugoslavia. Zorica Pantelic has a report:

[Begin Pantelic recording] The convention on Yugoslavia is aimed at giving bogus legitimacy to the policy of a truncated Yugoslavia and the legalization of secession. These are the basic reasons for not signing the convention, that representatives of all movements have assessed as intolerant.

Budislav Tasic, president of the National Front, said that this movement is fighting for the preservation of Yugoslavia from Triglav to Kajmakcalan and against fascism and the creation of some truncated Yugoslavia. Mirjana Jakelic, president of the party's committee in Croatia, assessed the convention as capitulation, because this act recognizes the independence of Slovenia and Croatia and distances Macedonia from Yugoslavia.

As far as the Party of Yugoslavs is concerned, the document is generally unacceptable because, with the breakup of Yugoslavia, many citizens would be left without a homeland. The National Front announced the creation of a comprehensive scientific and principled approach to resolving the Yugoslav crisis, which will be contained in a document entitled: Manifesto for Yugoslavia.

The act of refusing to sign the convention does not close the door to continued dialogue on resolving the Yugoslav crisis. According to Milenko Stanisic from the Youth Alliance, the convention on Yugoslavia is unacceptable because it offers a continuation of the war in the country.

It was said at the news conference that the document had not been signed by the League of Communists-Movement for Yugoslavia either. In reply to the question of how members of the National Front felt standing shoulder to shoulder with the Chetnik warlord Seselj, it was said that participants in one meeting could not be expected to be of one voice, but according to Budislav Tasic, it is unacceptable that the organizers of the meeting had allowed members of the extreme right to speak while, at the very beginning, they prevented a member of the League of Communists-Movement for Yugoslavia from putting forward the party's views.

One question was not related to the convention. Journalists asked how representatives of the National Front saw the ban on the work of communist parties in the Krajina republic. Mirjana Jakelic briefly replied that this was proof of democracy a la Milan Babic. [end recording]

Slovenia

Democratic Party Withdraws Support for Government

AU0801164892 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1800 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Excerpts] The representatives of all parliamentary parties gathered in Ljubljana this afternoon to discuss the drawing up of electoral laws, the deadline for elections—the former government coalition proposed the end of April—and the manner in which other decisions concerning the elections will be adopted.

The analysis carried out by a special Assembly commission showed that it would not be possible to hold elections before the end of June, because the preparation of electoral legislation is such a demanding task. This challenged the representatives of the Democratic Party. At the news conference after the meeting, they announced they are withdrawing their support for the government and are willing to put forward their own prime minister designate [mandatar].

Sandi Frelih reports from the news conference:

[Begin recording] [Frelih] It was Dr. Dusan Plut, member of the Slovene Presidency, who presented the parliamentary parties' stance on the agreement of today's meeting at the news conference.

He said the parties agreed that five electoral laws—elections to the state parliament [drzavni zbor], elections to the council of state [drzavni svet], constituencies [volilni okolis], electoral rolls [volilna evidenca], and elections for the president of the republic—will be coordinated in the republican Constitutional Commission. The elements for these laws will be drawn up by a special expert group.

None of the parties supports a pure simple majority system; therefore, they proposed various crosses between the proportional representation system and the simple majority system. The simple majority system would apply primarily in the elections to the council of state.

They also agreed that it is not possible to hold elections to the republican parliament simultaneously with the elections at the communal level, as all the conditions for holding the elections at the communal level have not yet been fulfilled. Opinions on whether the elections for the members of the parliament and for president of the republic should be held simultaneously were also divided. [passage omitted]

Representatives of the opposition parties, especially the representatives of the Liberal-Democratic Party, pointed out that an agreement on representation in the media has not been reached yet, that neither the regulations for the preelectoral battle nor the agreement on financing the preelectoral campaign exist, and that a vote of no confidence in the government remains topical. A certain amount of surprise was caused by Spomenka Hribar from the Democratic Party:

[Hribar] Since we all established that there is no chance of holding elections in April, and bearing in mind that the April deadline was the condition the Democratic Party put forward at the Demos meeting in Dolsko [30 December 1991], the Democratic Party has concluded that it is bound by this agreement, which means it will no longer support the government. The party is willing to offer its own prime minister designate.

[Frelih] After her statement, which surprised some of the former coalition parties, an argument nearly broke out, but Dusan Plut quickly ended it by saying on behalf of the Green Party—just as Matjaz Sinkovec said on behalf of the Social Democratic Party—that the parties have only promised to support the government if elections are held by the end of April. However, all participants in the meeting also concluded that, unless the elections are held by modifying the old electoral law, the elections can only be held at the end of July at the earliest. [end recording]

Lifting of Special Import Duties Discussed

92BA0263B Ljubljana DELO in Slovene 13 Dec 91 p 3

[Article by Tonja Slokar: "Minister Sesok Has Saved Importers From Paying Duties: Duties of 7.5 Percent Are Only Still for Imports of Cigarettes and Alcoholic Beverages; Request to the German Government for 300 Million German Marks"—first paragraph is DELO introduction]

[Text] Ljubljana, 12 Dec—Finance Minister Dusan Sesok, along with the government, will certainly be seeking approval from the Slovene economy because of today's lifting of the special 7.5-percent duties on imports of goods that, until now, all imports had to pay under federal law. The government has obviously decided that drinkers and smokers will continue to be persecuted, since the import duties have been kept for imports of cigarettes and alcoholic beverages.

As stated by Dusan Sesok, this is one of the last steps in adapting our turnover taxes, income taxes, and duties to European ones. This will make imports cheaper, and our import duties will no longer be contrary to GATT regulations; and on top of everything else, the finance minister says that this will not be recognized in the budget, since the reduction was already planned on when this year's budget was adopted.

In response to a question about whether the government would continue to insist upon renomination and not upon rebalancing the budget, Sesok answered that the essential advantage of renomination is that the beneficiaries can obtain state money immediately. The government finally has all the authority to be able to change the budget itself, through both the sources and the expenditures.

Dusan Sesok also said that the prevailing belief in the government today was that it was necessary to allow foreign exchange depositors, as soon as possible, to obtain their foreign exchange, since people are slowly gaining confidence in banks, the state, and the value securities, etc. He said that

the government was in favor of having depositors receive 500 German marks [DM] each immediately after New Year's, and the same amount would also be paid to them on 1 March. Dusan Sesok also did not want to say anything specific about how the banks or the state would ensure enough foreign exchange for the payments, since he said that this had not yet been coordinated in the government. He has a great deal of hope for the DM700 million that are supposed to be gathered, in the minister's opinion, through the purchase of socially owned apartments. In exchange offices, about DM140 million have been collected in one month. If sales of foreign exchange become increasingly larger, Sesok said he was afraid that the exchange rate of the tolar against foreign currencies would increase, and that would not be encouraging for exporters. Today the government has had the most discussion about property relationships between the republic and the banks after the state takes over the banks' obligations and claims against the National Bank of Yugoslavia. He is convinced, however, that all of this will be coordinated within the government by the end of this week.

Slovene Labor Minister Rozica Puhar told journalists about the results of a visit to German ministers, which she made together with Dr. Andrej Ocvirk, the Deputy Prime Minister. She said that they had asked the German Government for DM 300 million in assistance for the restructuring of the Slovene economy, and for the financial rehabilitation of banks. The Germans are willing to approve the assisstance, but are waiting for the recognition of Slovenia and also for specific investment projects. The German labor ministry is prepared to approve an increase in the quota for our workers who will carry out contract work for our enterprises in Germany, from the present 2,000 to somewhat more than 3,000, although the supply of workers on our side is much higher.

Croatia

Tudjman News Conference on Cease-Fire, UN Forces

LD0701164992 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 6 Jan 92

[News conference by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman with foreign and domestic correspondents in Zagreb—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Unidentified correspondent] Do you envisage that UN peacekeeping forces will come to Croatia? Will this influence the expected international recognition of the Republic of Croatia on 15 January, and if so, how?

[Tudjman] Although I received Mr. Vance's letter yesterday, last night in fact, I cannot give you a definite answer. Troops will probably come by 15 January, but [words indistinct]. I do not think that this has any direct connection with recognition and that recognition will occur as indicated, on or near 15 January.

[VJESNIK Correspondent Crnjakovic] I would like to have a little more detail about the arrival of the peacekeeping forces, if you can tell me, Mr. President. Why are the peacekeeping forces coming to individual parts of certain towns, for example, to the east of the center of Osijek? Will the peacekeeping forces be deployed in certain villages where the Croats comprise a threatened majority? I am thinking spefically about Drnis, Kijevo, and Skabrnje. My second question is: Mr. Babic clearly will not voluntarily agree to his paramilitary forces being disarmed. Does this mean that the peacekeeping forces will disarm these paramilitary organizations by force? What happens after that? Will the police who remain in Knin then be subordinated to the republican Ministry of Internal Affairs? How will this occur?

[Tudjman] With regard to Mr. Babic, I believe that you have probably read or heard what I also heard, that Mr. Babic without the Yugoslav Army is what he was before—a dentist. Mr. Vance considered that question during his talks in Belgrade with Milosevic and Kadijevic. He told them that Babic is their problem. Vance got the reply that if Babic opposes that agreement, then they themselves will disarm him.

At present Martic's police cannot survive in Knin, nor can they survive anywhere else. According to the agreement, all armed formations in these crisis areas that were set up under the auspices of the Yugoslav Army must leave together with that army or be disarmed. Police will be set up later in accordance with the constitutional and legal system of the Republic of Croatia and the law that we adopted on ethnic communities and national minorities. There can be no discussion about the survival in Croatia of those armed formations that took part in the war against Croatia. [passage indistinct]

There can be no question of any loss of a single foot of Croatian territory, because the peacekeeping forces are being engaged in Croatia precisely so that the Yugoslav Army will leave Croatia, so that the legal order of the Republic of Croatia can be set up in these regions. In other words, there is no question of any possible speculation about the loss of these territories or of some kind of referendum. It is a matter of basic essential assumptions from The Hague conference, where it was stated that the present borders are respected and that no change in borders by force is permissable. Only on that assumption and on those conditions did we agree to the involvement of the peacekeeping forces.

For Croatia the involvement of the peacekeeping forces is the way to stop the war, to stop the destruction of Croatian towns and Croatian villages, and to achieve peace. For the opposite side, reconciliation with the involvement of the peacekeeping forces is a sort of honorable way out [words indistinct]. It is no tactical maneuver. It cannot be a tactical maneuver. You can [words indistinct] that despite Babic's and I do not know what other kind of demands of the so-called Krajina, even the Serbian Assembly did not accept their proposals [words indistinct].

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN correspondent] Mr. President, it is now almost certain that in a very short time UN peacekeeping forces will come. In Annex Three, which we have had the opportunity to see, and in the talks so far there is no mention of how long the peacekeeping forces will be in Croatia. Can you say something about this? Until when will the peacekeeping forces be in Croatia?

[Tudjman] This will be the subject of a special agreement, just like the question of the whole UN involvement.

[VECERNJI LIST Correspondent (Branko Tudjer)] I would have [words indistinct]. First, what lies behind the new invitation by Mr. Carrington for the presidents of the six republics go to Brussels on Thursday? Second, what comment do you have on the statement by Mr. Karadzic [leader of the Croatian Democratic Community in Bosnia-Hercegovina] who [word indistinct] in some way to stimulate the Croats of Bosnia-Hercegovina to secede and [words indistinct]?

[Tudjman] I do not know what lies behind the invitation. I have only received the invitation and will go to this meeting. [Words indistinct] Mr. Carrington wants to complete the tasks of The Hague conference. In other words, he wants to find a [word indistinct] solution to the Yugoslav crisis. I do not know about the statement by Carrington, but [words indistinct] concerning Muslims or generally concerning the problem of Bosnia-Hercegovina. I must confess [words indistinct] has not been publicized anywhere in Croatia [words indistinct] but this is only the farce of the Yugoslav convention in Belgrade. One piece of news is that they are envisaging the [words indistinct], that is, a Greater Serbia in the whole of Bosnia-Hercegovina, and another is that they want to include [words indistinct] in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Accordingly, this is a matter of two trends. How the crisis in Bosnia-Hercegovina will sort itself out remains to be seen. [passage omitted]

[Radio Slovenia correspondent] During the Cyrus Vance's latest visit to Zagreb and his talks with you, we received the text of Annex Three. I am interested in knowing whether there is an Annex One and an Annex Two.

[Tudjman] There is a document containing an introduction to the general provisions concerning this.

[Hungarian Radio correspondent] Mr. President, how long will the process to establish the sovereignty of the Republic of Croatia last in the occupied parts of Croatia? Will this be one month or 15 years [words indistinct]? Thank you.

[Tudjman] It is envisaged that with the arrival of the peacekeeping forces, the Yugoslav Army will simultaneously leave all Croatian areas. Thus, it is not a question of months or years, particularly in the way, dear lady, you put it. It is primarily a matter of days or weeks. After this, the rule of law will be established in keeping with the constitutional and legal system of the Republic of Croatia and with the law on ethnic communities and national minorities who [words indistinct].

[SLOBODNA HRVATSKA Correspondent (Maja Cangic)] Mr. President, you have initiated the founding of the Ministry of Reconstruction. Does this mean that Croatia has carried out all preparations in order to start, under the protection of the peacekeeping forces, with an immediate reconstruction of demolished towns like Vukovar, and in order to enable displaced Croats to return home?

[Tudjman] Absolutely, that is the first-degree task of the complete Croatian government.

[Zdenka Martinovic of Croatian TV] Mr. President, it is now 1992, with which we associate the phrase Europe 1992. In light of the fact that this is a decisive year for international relations in the world—the United States, Germany, Europe, the community of new states created after the disintegration of the Soviet Union—how in this context do you view the position of Croatia, given the fact that the war is expected to end soon? How do you foresee the reconstruction of Croatia and its position in international relations? Thank you.

[Tudjman] Obviously, after the recognition, [words indistinct], Croatia will in all possible ways enter these international integrations. We can presume that it is soon to become an associate member of the European Community and other international integration institutions.

[Passage indistinct]

[Tudjman] I did not understand the first question. Would you please translate it to me.

[Passage indistinct]

[Tudjman] It is clear: All Croatian armed forces are under my command, as the president of the republic and the supreme commander, and therefore there can be within their ranks no special attitude, but they have to accept what [words indistinct].

Second, in all countries where national minorities exist, only one state holiday, religious holiday, can be celebrated, not all, because it would mean that there would be so many holidays that it would be impossible to work. But, as far as I know, in all these countries, members of other religions, minorities' religions, have the right to unpaid absence from work on their holiday. One holiday cannot be celebrated several times in one single state. We are now in a state of war and have even had to introduce a compulsory work order, and therefore a proposal of the Croatian government that this day should be a working day is normal—I mean state institutions, while enterprises themselves can make a decision in accordance with their need and the circumstances in which they are doing business. [Passage indistinct]

[Tudjman] I think that so far we have had indications that both sides have stuck to the agreement on the cessation of hostilities. We can say that there have only been sporadic slight violations of that agreement so far and it seems to me that Mr. Vance's efforts, you saw that he acted as the UN secretary general's personal envoy, but the U.S. Government also issued a special statement that it completely supports Mr. Vance's efforts. [sentence as heard] Therefore,

we can expect that the aggressors, the Serbian, Montenegrin, and Yugoslav Army leaderships, will eventually understand and give up the aggression and their further attempts to conquer Croatian territories.

[Name indistinct, in English] Mr. President, you sound very confident that the UN troops will come [words indistinct]

[Tudjman] I am reluctant to guess about that [words indistinct]. We want the war to stop, the occupying forces of the Yugoslav Army and the Serbian Chetnik troops to leave Croatia in a peaceful way, aided by the deployment of the peace-keeping forces. Failing this, Croatia will have to continue with its defensive war for the liberation of every foot of its territory. But I believe that we have now reached a point where it is possible to put an end to hostilities with the help of the United Nations, the European Community, and the deployment of peacekeeping forces.

[Correspondent's name indistinct] You said that when the peacekeeping forces come to Croatia the army will leave the entire territory of the Republic of Croatia. Does this mean that [words indistinct] for instance, the Serbian Autonomous Region to the west of Srem will immediately disappear?

[Tudjman] I do not know. What does it mean? A tank unit and other occupying troops should leave Beli Manastir, and then local authorities will be set up. In accordance, as I said, with the Croatian constitution and the law which I also mentioned.

[Name indistinct, in English] Mr. President, have you got any idea when the United States is going to recognize Croatia [words indistinct].

[Tudjman] I think, after the latest statement of the U.S. Government and Mr. Vance's efforts to this effect, as I said, from that we can draw a conclusion that the United States will very soon follow other countries in recognizing Croatia.

[Name indistinct] I have two questions, Mr. President. First, Mr. Tomac put forward a question of some secret promises to the army and the Serbian side. Have you obtained guarantees from Mr. Vance that there will be no secret promises, no vague annexes to this agreement, that everything is as the public has been informed?

[Tudjman] Yes, I had a tete-a-tete with Mr. Vance, I had talks with Mr. Vance at this table. He told both domestic and foreign journalists that there are no special [word indistinct] plans or secret promises.

[Correspondent] Second question: Serbian propaganda, or the Serbian mass media, speak about attacks by the Croatian air force. Some sources claim that, nevertheless, apart from crop dusters, there are (?other) planes that can carry out military tasks. Can you confirm, deny, or do you refuse to comment on this question? [as heard]

[Tudjman] No, I can say that the Croatian army, proceeding from a situation in which we were a year ago, or a few months ago when we were completely unarmed, today it already has all its branches. Understandably, we are still technically inferior, but we have all the branches, in their infancy. That is one of the reasons why we have succeeded in our defensive war in preventing the aggressor from fulfilling its intentions and why the aggressor is forced to give up because of its battlefield defeats, because of the lack of perspective to continue the war and because of the organized activity of the international community, the European Community and the United Nations.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, can you say, do you know, will the embargo on the legal import of armaments be lifted once Croatia's independence has been recognized?

[Tudjman] You would be better off putting that question to those who introduced that embargo, but in any case, we can presume that Croatia will be in a more favorable position than now.

[Unidentified correspondent] I am sorry I have to ask you again: You have not answered my first question whether the peacekeeping forces will be stationed in some Croatian towns such as Drnis, Kijevo etc, and why only in certain parts of some towns, for example, the eastern part of Osijek. And when I...

[Tudjman, interrupting] No, not the eastern part of Osijek, but the area east of Osijek, i.e. the area affected by the war. The peacekeeping forces will be deployed in certain towns of the so-called crisis [word indistinct].

[Unidentified correspondent] Would you please tell me something about a rumor that Serbia has been getting aircraft from Russia. If that is true, are you planning to send an official letter of protest to Russia? Thank you.

[Tudjman] If it were true we would certainly send a letter of protest, and if there is a reason to, we will do so. During my stay in Moscow and talks with Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Yeltsin I was told that the Yugoslav Army asked for weapons even to cover a deficit that exists in trade relations between the former Soviet Union and former Yugoslavia, but that requirement was not met. After that, we obtained details that some Yaroslav, or I do not know who and what his name is, anyway he stated he was coming with volunteers to join the Serbian army to defend, as he said, the Orthodox cause. To this we reacted by sending a letter of inquiry. We received a letter of reply from the Soviet side denying this, but recently, we received a report saying that during the bombing of Croatian towns, during the period of intensified activity of the Yugoslav Air Force over Croatia, pilots were heard speaking in Russian, which could mean that some pilots aboard those aircraft were of Russian origin.

Therefore, if that proves true, we will definitely send a letter of protest and [words indistinct]. I presume, on the basis of what can be concluded from the developments in the former Soviet Union, present-day Russia, on the basis of talks that I have had and on the basis of what Russia's official representative, the consul general in Zagreb, said, Russia or any other republic cannot officially supply Serbia with

either aircraft or pilots. But we can suppose that the Yugoslav Army or the Serbian leadership perhaps has employed some mercenaries, given the presumption that in Russia now there is a huge number of unemployed pilots and that they are ready to come for certain sums of money, to make themselves available to those who can pay. But that can be only on a private level, not on an official level between Moscow and Belgrade.

[SLOBODNA DALMACIJA correspondent] It is said that the UN peace-keeping forces will hold talks with the Yugoslav bodies of government and will reach an agreement with them. Since the Hague process established that Yugoslavia is disintegrating and, in the annex, there is further mention of talks and cooperation with local bodies of government, what does this mean in international law? Where is there room for cooperation, negotiations, and agreements with the Croatian state bodies of government, because this is not explicitly mentioned anywhere in the annex?

[Tudjman] That is a draft for involvement. Besides, here it was a question of Yugoslavia, rather [words indistinct] equally of the Croatian and Serbian and Yugoslav Army, so that, from an international point of view, all this was implied in this way. Of course, the starting point was what I said—the inviolability of Croatia's borders, [word indistinct] the fact that there can be no discussion of whether Croatia will or will not be recognized as a sovereign and independent state. This was repeated by Mr. Vance and Mr. Okun [words indistinct], so that the prospects for the involvement of the UN peacekeeping forces in Croatia [words indistinct] with a special agreement between Croatia and the United Nations, and as you know, there is also discussion of the involvement of peacekeeping forces in Bosnia-Hercegovina, this has also been called for by Macedonia, so that there was reason for speaking about, for using the term "Yugoslav", referring to everything [words indistinct].

[Passage indistinct]

[Tudjman] Mr. Vance has informed us that, in his talks with General Kadijevic, he said that it was immaterial to him who would come to the talks, but that whoever came to the talks would have full authorization and all the obligations, which on behalf of the Yugoslav Army [words indistinct] negotiate. Besides, it is difficult to imagine that the Yugoslav communist army, as the aggressor, as the aggressor occupation army, could permit itself now, when it had sent General Raseta, who it is true was already in the capacity, in the new post of deputy chief of staff, that the gentlemen could revoke or violate that agreement because someone even more responsible in that ministry or supreme command of the Yugoslav Army was not present. As I said, Mr. Vance was present and countersigned the agreement as a witness, as the personal envoy of the UN secretary general, and of course—and it is clear to everyone—that he is also a representative, an eminent former statesman, U.S. secretary of state, that he [words indistinct] and the fact that the U.S. Government [words indistinct] issued a statement that it fully supports [words indistinct]

[Name indistinct] Mr. President, former Yugoslav Prime Minister Mr. Markovic has been staying in Zagreb following his resignation in Belgrade. What is his status in Zagreb now, and can you say whether you had any contacts with him?

[Tudjman] Mr. Markovic's status is the status of a citizen of the Republic of Croatia. A common citizen. I have not had any contacts with him since the day before the Brussels conference, which was, I would say, on 16 December. I told him again that, as the president of the Federal Government, he was in the role of a prime minister of a non-existent state, a state that was waging a war against Croatia, and that it was high time he, as a Croatian citizen, resigned. He promised me he would do that. That was—when I spoke to him—a week before that, [words indistinct] since then I have not had any conversation with him, nor has he contacted me. He is [words indistinct] Croatian citizen like any other citizen.

Of course, remaining in the post of president of a government that does not exist, a state that does not exist, in that way he was an obstacle to the international recognition of Croatia.

[Passage indistinct]

[Tudjman] I have tried to explain [words indistinct] and why that unfortunate marriage, the creation of the common state of Yugoslav nations did not succeed. [passage indistinct] I have also said that Croatia, since its independence, after being internationally recognized, is prepared to cooperate with all those countries that recognize Croatia, and even, and especially with the states that are formed on the territory of the former Yugoslavia, because there will be economic, transportation, and other reasons for such cooperation, but only and exclusively on the basis of mutual interest.

Mesic, Krpina, Jurica Hold News Conference

LD0901133192 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1200 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] The Croatian Democratic Community executive committee held its regular news conference in Zagreb today. Speakers were Chairman Stipe Mesic, Vice Chairman Drago Krpina, and executive council member Neven Jurica.

The resolution last night about sending 50 UN peacekeeping forces liaison officers to Croatia, Kadijevic's resignation, and Milosevic's letter to Babic are an indication that the political situation is entering the end game, Krpina said. It is now quite clear, said Stipe Mesic, that there is a split in the Yugoslav Army. Generals Adzic, Vasiljevic, and Negovanovic are obviously a pro-Serbian group who have taken power, while Kadijevic and Brovet's group, which had played the Yugoslav card, has left the scene.

It is obvious, Mesic went on to say, that there still is no split between the Army and the Serbian—that is,

Milosevic—line, but it will probably happen because someone must take the blame for this war. Both sides will blame each other, said Stipe Mesic.

Krajina's Babic Urged To Abolish Communist Ban

LD0901045592 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1328 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Belgrade, Jan 8 (TANJUG)—The secretariat of the new Communist Movement of Yugoslavia today warned President of the Republic of Serb Krajina Milan Babic and his aides that the law banning communist parties in Krajina might provoke a rift among the fighters for freedom and independence of Yugnslavia unless it was immediately abolished.

Babic yesterday adopted a law prohibiting the work and political activity, registration and organization of all communist-oriented parties and organizations in the territory of the Republic of Serb Krajina.

This is the second time in the history of Yugoslavia that communists are being outlawed. The first such ban was introduced in 1920 by the government of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

Condemning the enactment of the law, the movement demanded that "this anti-demncratic alleged law be immediately annulled."

The secretariat also said that "Babic has abused the justifed strugle of the Serb people and all progressive forces against Tudjman's fascist clique in order to impose himself as a dictator."

Serbia

Tax on Slovene Truck Drivers Explained

LD0801141492 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1057 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Belgrade, 8 Jan (TANJUG)—The moment Slovene authorities cancel the special taxes that Serbian truck drivers have to pay for using the roads in that republic, Serbia is ready to do the same for Slovene road haulers, because the measure has been introduced on a reciprocal basis. TANJUG was informed of this today by Serbian Deputy Transport Minister Predrag Krkic.

Krkic went on to explain that this was a reciprocal step, or a step forced on Serbia. He said that the basis for introducing the special measures and their amount were the same as in Slovenia. In both republics, these measures were introduced last year on the basis of the federal law on international transport, and the tax was fixed at $0.047 per km/tonne. The fact that Slovene truck drivers probably pay more is the result of the length of their jnurney though Serbia, Krkic explained, adding that Serbia will also be forced to introduce reciprocal measures if other republics decide on a similar step.

Journalist Group Condemns Croatian TV Censorship

LD0901144292 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1208 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Jan (TANJUG)—The decision by Croatian TV to ban films in which Germany is portrayed as an occupier has confirmed our public warnings about the monstrous consequences of the censorship of the public media in Croatia, stresses the executive committee of the Association of Journalists of Serbia, reacting today to the decision to impose this ban.

The regime in Croatia has carried out a purge of journalists on the editorial board of Croatian TV, which is unprecedented in terms of its brutality in this area. The tragic fate of 700 dismissed journalists and 100 others who are still undergoing police checks is incorporated into the foundations of this TV institution, which they have nicknamed "the university chair of the Croatian spirit." Most of them are of Serbian nationality.

As a result, Croatian TV Director Antun Vrdoljak's announcement that he will sue the magazine DANAS because it published information on the banning of the films sounds grotesque, the executive committee of the Association of Journalists of Serbia stresses in its statement today.

Renaissance Movement Leader Comments on War

LD0901143392 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1200 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Kadijevic's departure has made possible the creation of a rump Yugoslavia, in accordance with ideas presented at the Convention on Yugoslavia, and this, in fact, means the continuation of the war.

This claim was put forward last night by Vuk Draskovic, leader of the Serbian Renaissance Movement, during a broadcast on Studio B independent Belgrade TV. Kadijevic and Izetbegovic made firm guarantees that peace would be maintained, and this has now come to nothing, said Draskovic. Kadijevic is no longer in Karadzic's way, and the latter intends to proclaim a Serbian Bosnia-Hercegovina. If hotheads do not come to their senses, or if we do not make them see reason, Bosnia will soon be up to its knees in blood. Kosovo and Sandzak (?will also be ablaze). Due to the policies followed by the Serbian Government, Serbia will lose everything it has gained since the Balkan wars, Draskovic warned, adding that it was still not too late to resolve the crisis through agreement.

He predicted that Milan Babic will remain politically alive for a day or two. Babic was attacked by Draskovic for challenging the UN plan. Draskovic said Babic's stance would lead to a continuation of the war, with tragic consequences.

Jovanovic Views Talks With Greek Officials

LD0801015592 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2342 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Athens, Jan 7 (TANJUG)—Foreign Minister of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia Vladislav Jovanovic said today that Greece and Serbia favoured an integral political resolution of the Yugoslav crisis, "which would take into consideration all options, including the continuity of Yugoslavia."

In a statement to TANJUG on his return from a one-day visit to Greece, Jovanovic said that in his talks with his Greek counterpart Andonios Samaras and Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis "a high level of agreement" had been noted in regard to the resolution of all open questions of the Yugoslav crisis "in a principled and legal manner and respecting the equal rights of all Yugoslav peoples and republics."

It was jointly assessed, Jovanovic said, that the success of the latest mission by special envoy of the UN secretary general, Cyrus Vance, and the decision by the new secretary general of the world organization, Butrus Ghali, to send 50 military observers to Yugoslavia and appoint his own representative at The Hague conference on the resolution of the crisis in that country are "the main reason for the relativization of unilateral acts in connection with the recognition of the independence of those Yugoslav republics who want it."

The ministerial council of the European Community has announced that it will on January 15 recognize all Yugoslav republics who ask for recognition and meet the community's conditions for the recognition of new states in Europe. Germany on December 23 last year formally recognized the secessionist republics of Slovenia and Croatia, and has said that it will set up diplomatic links with them in mid-January.

Serbian, Albanian Opposition Leaders Meet 7 Jan

LD0801162992 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Report by correspondent Dusko Mandic]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] When they have a common enemy, those who did not love each other yesterday soon find a common language. This literally was the case with opposition leaders from Serbia and Kosovo, who met for the third time in Belgrade to discuss how to untie the Gordian knot after so long, and when it has been tangled to an absurd degree by the ruling socialists who introduced a state of emergency in Kosovo.

Most important leaders on both sides were present. Let us mention only Messrs. Vuk Draskovic, Dragan Veselinov, Nebojsa Popov, Veton Suroi, Skeljzen Malici, and Gazmet Pulja.

We must live where we are, both sides said. The conflict did not erupt yesterday, and it has been in a tragic phase because of the total absence of any communication between the national groups for which the Serbian authorities hold exclusive responsibility. The first thing to be done is to stop the violence and rescind the state of occupation. Of course, proper conditions need to be created on the basis of accurate assessments, but no matter how optimistic these assessments may be for the long term—in the sense that they assume the fall from power of communists in Serbia soon—they do pose a threat similar to that facing the people living in these areas, since both Vuk Draskovic and Veton Suroi have warned about the possibility of a so-called southern front opening up—that is to say, in the direction of Kosovo and in the direction of Macedonia. And this is not aimed at resolving any specific problem in this manner, including the Serbian problem, but at protecting the existing communist authority at any price.

It is a fact that this price is now being paid in blood, so much so that Mr. Draskovic said that everything must be done to prevent the Vukovarization of Pristina, Prizren, Djakovica, and other towns.

Getting rid of the secessionists from the Albanian ranks, and of tanks from the Serbian ranks, is the condition for any common sense agreement. They all agreed. However, at the moment—and they all agreed on this too—the worst people from each nation are leading these nations. Some of them have top positions in a nonexisting state and have a few hundred votes behind them, which is a humiliation for the Albanians and a shame for the Serbs.

Consensus among the citizens without domination by anyone and acceptance of Europan recipes is a vision of the proposed solutions, of course, after the imminent fall of communism. This all took place in the BORBA editorial offices, and only three journalists were admited to the meeting, including one from Croatian radio and television. Whatever you may say, these people do think differently.

Kosovo

Albanian Union Organization Holds News Conference

LD0801174892 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Report by correspondent Bedzet Baraliju]

[Text] Discrimination is still applied against the Albanian workers in Kosovo. A new wave of dismissals of Albanian workers is underway, under the pretext that they refuse to accept the Serbian regime's coercive measures. Among other things, this was said during a news conference held by the Union of Independent Kosovo Trade Unions. The union, as its president, Dr. Hajlulah Gorani, said, also most vehemently denounces the so-called dress rehearsal carried out on Orthodox Christmas by paramilitary units in Kosovo.

[Begin Gorani recording] The paramilitary units set up in Kosovo, who commit acts of violence against the Albanian workers and Albanian population, have displayed such weaponry and such weapon concentration that this is bound to lead to very tragic consequences. Indiscriminate firing of assorted small arms and artillery weapons are also thought to have been fired, demonstrating to what extent these weapons have been concentrated. The Union of Independent Kosovo Trade Unions has always warned that a massacre of the workers is being planned when they try to go back to their places of work. You know full well that the return to one's place of work was abandoned when we were warned that paramilitary units existed that would provoke a situation in which they can carry out a massacre of innocent Albanian workers. [end recording]

The Union of Independent Kosovo Trade Unions will report to the EC and the United Nations on this latest provocation carried out by the Serbian regime.

'Serbian Paramilitary' Holds 'Rehearsal'

AU0901144192 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Albanian 2145 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] The Kosovo Union of Independent Trade Unions [BSPK] strongly condemns the so-called dress rehearsal of Serbian paramilitary units in Kosovo on 6 January. These paramilitary units that have been formed in Kosovo are waging terror against the Albanian populace and Albanian workers. Their parades testify to major concentrations of weapons, including even heavy guns and, thus, indicate Serbian preparations for a massacre of Albanians in Kosovo, especially any workers who may attempt to return to their jobs.

This was announced at today's news conference by BSPK Chairman Hajrullah Gorani, who also said that the return of Albanian workers to their jobs must be postponed for a later date, bearing in mind the threat represented by the formation of these units, which could lead to incidents being staged. The BSPK will turn to the EC and the United Nations with a demand for the disarmament of Serbian and Montenegrin workers, in order to prevent any massacre of Albanian workers. He concluded by saying that, in spite of the Serbian regime's repression and looting of the Albanian people in Kosovo, our workers temporarily employed abroad are making a great contribution to confronting all these evils.

LDK's Agani Reacts to Milosevic Interview

AU0801175892 Pristina BUJKU in Albanian 4 Jan 92 p 3

[Behxhet Haliti report: "Serbia Tries To Legalize Terror in Kosovo"]

[Text] The Kosovo Democratic Alliance [LDK] held two news conferences this week. A special news conference was held on Tuesday, New Year's Eve, over the events in Prekaz i Ulet [Donje Prekaze] near Skenderaj [Srbica], and a regular news conference was held yesterday, led by LDK Deputy Chairman Fehmi Agani.

Both the Star and the Cockade Together

We welcome the new agreement to suspend the Serb-Croat war and hope that this time the war will stop. Once again, we join all those who condemn this criminal war and call for the punishment of those responsible for it. Professor Agani began yesterday's news conference this way. He went on to say that the agreement that has been reached also paves the way for agreements and peaceful solutions for the other problems of Yugoslavia and the territories that used to make up Yugoslavia. The problem of Kosovo is one of the most important in any such agreement.

Agani went on to say that the Serbian president's [Milosevic] interview shortly before the new year, especially the part relating to Kosovo, has aroused great interest. For us, this part of the interview is unclear. It is in some ways confused, and in other ways is inaccurate. This part of the interview, Agani said, can be counted among the verbal concessions that Serbia is ready to make under the pressure of domestic and foreign public opinion. We think, he said, that the pressure of public opinion will increase, but verbal concessions will not succeed in placating it. Nor do we know what is serious in this interview and what is not: Milosevic insists on the joint involvement of Serbs and Albanians, but if he means by this the Albanians' involvement in realizing Serbia's interests, including Serbian domination of Kosovo, we must, first of all, say that his forecasts are empty.

Meanwhile, as for the part of the interview about Albanian schools, I must say that there is no school boycott of any kind in Kosovo. Classes were suspended in Kosovo by the intervention of the Serbian authorities; if 20,000 teachers were not paid for more than one year and, if more than 6,000 secondary school teachers and 692 college and university teachers were dismissed only one week before the start of the academic year, one can only say that the state made Albanian-language education impossible. It is, therefore, not a question of any kind of boycott, of any kind of game being played by the Albanian alternative, and still less of any kind of foreign influence. If there was foreign influence of any kind, Agani said, it favored classes continuing rather than being suspended.

Dr. Fehmi Agani went on to comment on yesterday's convention held in Belgrade. A motley gathering called a Convention for a New Yugoslavia is being held in Belgrade, he said. The forces of unitarism and hegemony are trying to save what can be saved, and they therefore require such pseudo-pluralist support. The meeting will be important because the five-pointed star and the cockade will be formally associated, bringing together the communists—whatever they are called today—and Chetniks of all kinds. For us, i.e. for the LDK and all Albanians, it is not those attending this convention who support equality and through whom relations could

progress. This convention is something quite alien to us, just as is any new Yugoslavia that resembles a truncated Yugoslavia or a Greater Serbia.

As for the situation in Kosovo, Dr. Fehmi Agani said that we are facing a new wave of repression. This repression surfaced even more prominently just before New Year. Dozens of people have been imprisoned and dozens of houses have been raided all over Kosovo, especially in Decan, Klina, Pristina, Skenderaj (as in the Prekaz case) and elsewhere. All this is an effort by Serbia to legalize its terror in Kosovo. This effort to legalize terror is to some extent understandable, because, in a way, Serbia can only hold on to Kosovo through repression. However, I wish to stress once again our decision and choice of a peaceful and democratic solution to all problems. I also wish to stress, Agani said, the legality of all acts of self-defense and of organization for the purposes of self-defense, in order to enable people to confront the violence and state terror. Agani then went on to repeat for the benefit of journalists who were not present at Tuesday's special news conference the LDK's stand on the group of imprisoned National Front members, calling their detention a clear attempt to incriminate those attempting to achieve Kosovo's sovereignty. Efforts to achieve a sovereign Kosovo, Agani said, express the will not only of all Albanians, but others, as was shown in the referendum. This will cannot be gainsaid. The LDK's deputy chairman went on to say that the imprisonment of the members of this organization is also an attempt to put the blame on the Albanian political parties. However, this does not hold water either, because the program and goals of the Albanian political parties are well known.

Finally, commenting on the Prekaz events, Professor Agani said that it may be a lesson for the future because patience may run out, and there is a very real danger of large-scale conflicts erupting. It is not a good idea to continually test the patience of the Albanian people.

Guilt on Both Sides

Yutel's correspondent started the journalists' questions by asking the LDK deputy chairman his views on the announced referendum of Albanians in Macedonia. Agani said that the Albanians in Macedonia genuinely have serious problems, from education to being forbidden to create communal assemblies in Tetovo and Gostivar. The Macedonians cannot reconcile themselves to the fact that the Albanians must also be considered a nation capable of forming a state in Macedonia. A referendum is one of the possible methods in attempts to reach a solution here. BORBA's journalist asked three questions: Have you anything more to say about Milosevic's interview? What is your stand on the Assembly of National Conciliation? What do you think of Dr. Rexhep Qosja's statement on the Albanian political parties?

In reply to the first question, Agani repeated what he had said about the Serbian president's interview. As for the resolution on the Assembly of National Conciliation, he said that the LDK had still not reached a final decision. As for Dr. Rexhep Qosja's statement that the LDK is allegedly a movement for autonomy, Agani said that this is not true, as is evident from all the LDK's documents. The LDK was the first political party to support the proclamation of the Republic of Kosovo and everything that happened until the referendum.

The correspondent of the Zagreb paper VECERNJI LIST asked how Agani would comment on Milosevic's statement that the Kosovo Serbs and Montenegrins are to blame for the serious position of the Albanians in Kosovo. Agani said that the local Serbs and Montenegrins really do share part of the blame, but that somebody else is to blame for these Serbs and Montenegrins coming to the fore.

The final question came from Radio Titograd's correspondent, who asked the LDK deputy chairman what he thought about Dr. Sali Berisha's statement that Albania is ready for war and will not allow the Albanians in Yugoslavia to be massacred. Agani replied that, if there is war in Kosovo, Albania could not be excluded. This is the sense in which I understand Dr. Sali Berisha's statement.

Bosnia-Hercegovina

'Assembly of Serbian People' Meets in Sarajevo

AU0901134092 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] The Assembly of the Serbian People of Bosnia-Hercegovina has begun meeting at Sarajevo's Holiday Inn hotel. It is expected that the decision on the proclamation of the state of the Serbian people of Bosnia-Hercegovina will be realized at this meeting.

In his introduction, Momcilo Krajisnik, president of the Assembly of the Serbian people, said that the Serbian people had decided on this step because the Muslim-Croatian coalition had not withdrawn its demand for the republic to be internationally recognized.

A declaration on proclaiming the Serbian republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina was read out. It is proposed that this republic be part of Yugoslavia. Until this republic's constitution is adopted, the Assembly of the Serbian people will take over the powers of the organs of authority. It is envisaged that the republic's capital will be in Sarajevo,.

New Republic Declared

LD0901151392 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1450 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] [No dateline as received] The Republic of the Serbian People of Bosnia-Hercegovina was proclaimed in Sarajevo today. Under the adopted declaration, the Republic of the Serbian People of Bosnia-Hercegovina is a federal unit of the Federal State of Yugoslavia.

Brussels Conference Informed

AU0901162092 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] We now have a report from Sarajevo, where the Republic of the Serbian People of Bosnia-Hercegovina was proclaimed. The decision on that was made by the Assembly of the Serbian People of that republic. The decision will be forwarded to the participants in the conference on Yugoslavia in Brussels and Lord Carrington today. Ljubomir Nikolic reports:

[Begin Nikolic recording] The Republic of the Serbian People of Bosnia-Hercegovina is being founded and proclaimed on the territories of the Serbian autonomous regions and areas and other Serbian ethnic territories in Bosnia-Hercegovina, including the areas on which the Serbian people are in a minority because of the genocide during World War II. This is being done on the basis of the plebiscite held on 9 and 10 December of last year. This republic is part of the federal state of Yugoslavia, as one of its federal units. Territorial separation from the political communities of other peoples of Bosnia-Hercegovina will be done in a peaceful way and through agreement. This was stated in a document that was distributed to the deputies.

This declaration becomes effective on the day it is adopted. It will be put into practice when and if Bosnia-Hercegovina is recognized as independent. The explanation of this decision stresses that the Assembly of the Serbian People has decided on this act because the coalition of the Muslim and the Croatian ethnic communities in Bosnia-Hercegovina joined the secessionists in their attempt to break up Yugoslavia.

This coalition, the explanation points out, is shortsightedly trying to present to the public at home and abroad its unlawful and illegitimate acts, memorandum, and platform as state and constitutional decisions, and is trying to base its request for the recognition of Bosnia-Hercegovina's independence on them. This completely ignores the sovereign will of the Serbian people in Bosnia-Hercegovina and indicates what Serbs could expect in a possible independent Bosnia-Hercegovina.

There were some more radical requests at today's session. Representatives of the Bosnian Krajina and East Hercegovina hold the view that the Assembly should adopt a decision today on determining more precisely the borders of the Serbian Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, and on the method and means of defending it. The participants in the meeting also adopted the proposal that the participants in the Brussels conference and Lord Carrington be immediately informed about the text of the declaration and the decision to proclaim the Republic of the Serbian People in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Prior to today's session, Dr. Radovan Karadzic said at a regular news conference that the transformation of Bosnia-Hercegovina is necessary and that the Serbian people will never agree to separation from Yugoslavia and their brothers in other parts of the country. The confederalization of Bosnia-Hercegovina, which we are offering, represents the best solution for all three of its people. It ensures peace and safety to all citizens of this republic, Karadzic said. [end recording]

Izetbegovic Discusses Constitutional Amendment

LD0801200592 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1753 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Bucharest, Jan 8 (TANJUG)—Presidency President of the Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina Alija Izetbegovic has announced that an amendment to the republican constitution will be adopted soon to make possible decision-making by a majority vote and not consensus as has been the case so far.

Bosnia-Hercegovina is often referred to as "mini Yugoslavia" because it is populated by members of the three numerically strongest peoples in Yugoslavia—Serbs, Croats and Muslims. Serbs make up 32 percent of Bosnia-Hercegovina's population, Croats 17 percent, and Muslims 44 percent.

Under the existing Bosnia-Hercegovina Constitution, all decisions of importance for the republic's future are passed by the consensus of representatives of the three constituent peoples.

Izetbegovic has explained in an interview to the Bucharest daily ADEVARUL that the constitutional amendment abolishing the principle of consensus in decision-making is necessary "to meet the European conditions for the recognition of Bosnia-Hercegovina and to avoid the veto currently resorted to by Serbs in all republican bodies of authority."

The Croat and Muslim members of the Bosnia-Hercegovina parliament have come out in favour of the republic's independence and requested its recognition by the European Community. The Serbs living in Bosnia-Hercegovina want to remain in Yugoslavia and fear being outvoted in the republican parliament by the Muslim and Croat deputies.

Izetbegovic said in the interview to ADEVARUL that the Serbs living in Bosnia-Hercegovina would soon be offered to vote in a referendum on whether they want the republic's independence to be recognized. The European Community has announced that it will recognize on January 15 all Yugoslav republics which so wish and fulfill the conditions set by the E.C. Council of Ministers.

Four of Yugoslavia's six republics—Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia- Herzegovina, and Macedonia—have sought recognition from the E.C. Bosnia-Hercegovina made the request without the consent of the Serbian representatives in the republican bodies, and its request is legally invalid under the existing republican constitution.

Parliamentary Parties Discuss Republic's Future

AU0801203292 Sarajevo Radio Sarajevo Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] The participants in today's meeting of the parliamentary parties of Bosnia-Hercegovina, which was not attended by representatives of the Serbian Democratic Party, discussed the future of this republic. At the beginning of the discussion, the participants in this informal meeting paid tribute to the dead members of the EC observers mission with a minute of silence, and sent a proposal to the republic government to proclaim a day of mourning. Aida Huseinovic reports:

[Begin Huseinovic recording] The majority of the participants in today's discussion—informally entitled, How To Go Forward?, stressed that the basic principles for solving the fate of Bosnia-Hercegovina are peace and democratic procedure.

Speaking on behalf of the Serbian Renewal Movement, Slavko Pologos expressed doubts in all solutions until the ruling parties offer specific proposals for the future of the republic. He advocated the institutional way to resolve the national question through consensus.

The representatives of the Socialist Demncratic Party stated that the recognition or failure to recognize Bosnia-Hercegovina as an independent state cannot be a reason for destabilizing it. According to Nijaz Durakovic, the key to everything lies in the fact that the Serbian Demncratic Party is not prepared for talks and democratic methods.

The Party of Socialists holds the view, and stated today, that the only possible form of the future organization of Bosnia-Hercegovina is a community of good-will. A party representative, Ismet Grbo, also mentioned the need for creating a community of six Slav republics.

Alija Izetbegovic today spoke as a leader of a party. Speaking about modifications that should be made in the current system of authority, he said that the new constitutional provisions should introduce a category that will allow the use of consensus during the adoption of important decisions. As an example, he mentioned a possibility of introducing a Peoples Chamber. He stressed that this proposal, although in contradiction with the positinn of the Party of Democratic Action on a civil republic [gradjanska republika], represents, at this moment, some kind of a compromise that could return confidence to the people.

Representatives of the Alliance of Reform Forces expressed the view that all party initiatives are useless, including the ones that were heard during the meeting, unless there was an agreement on essential issues. By saying this, they were also referring to the absence of the representatives of the Serbian Democratic Party. The talks among the representatives of the parliamentary parties ended without any conclusions or decisions, in keeping with the informal character of the talks. [end recording]

Democratic Action Party Supports Independence

AU0801215292 Sarajevo Radio Sarajevo Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] The Party of Democratic Action held a regular news conference in Sarajevo today. Irfan Ajanovic, secretary of the party, stated that during a recent meeting between Alija Izetbegovic and Cyrus Vance, he informally discussed the political future of the Yugoslav republics. The view of the Party of Democratic Action is an independent and sovereign Bosnia-Hercegovina, (?Paska), and other republics. A community of independent Yugoslav states should be built on that.

Officials of the Party of Democratic Action also stated at the news conference that neither the Muslim people nor the Party of Democratic Action support the statement by Franjo Tudjman on the division of Bosnia-Hercegovina. We also know, Ajanovic said, that this is not supported by the Croatian Democratic Community of Bosnia-Hercegovina either.

Commenting on the statement by Stjepan Kljujic, that present-day Bosnia is stepmother to the Croats, Ajanovic said that considering its present state, Bosnia-Hercegovina is a stepmother to everyone. We are, he said, doing our best to turn into everyone's mother.

As regards the Yugoslav People's Army, the officials of the Party of Democratic Action today stated that this question will be resolved once Bosnia-Hercegovina becomes independent. This will be done to the mutual satisfaction of the Army and the Republic. Commenting on why Fikret Abdic is not a member of the Main Committee of the Party of Democratic Action, party officials said that the only reason is that he was not a candidate in his own commune.